13 Shattewall

THE

CHILDREN

OF THE

ABBEY.

A TALE.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

REGINA MARIA ROCHE.

A matchless pair; With equal virtue form'd and equal grace, The same, diftinguish'd by their fex alone; Her's the mild luftre of the blooming morn, And his the radiance of the rifen day.

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LONDON:

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ABGIRI MARIA ROCHE.

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SIR ADAM WILLIAMSON, K.B.

SIR.

Philippad

I SHOULD not have prefumed to intrude upon your notice the amusement of my leisure hours, had it not afforded me an opportunity, I have long anxiously defired, of expressing the grateful sentiments, which your great, your unfolicited, goodness to one of my nearest, and most beloyed connexions had inspired me with; yet, ardently as I have longed, I almost shrink from it, through a conviction of being unable to atter what I feel, and nothing but a wish of avowing, in some

forme degree, my obligations for those conferred upon one so dear to me, and a hope that you may make allowances for so faint, so imperfect, a tribute of gratitude and respect could have tempted me to avail myself of it.

Happy, as you must be, in the silent plaudits of your own heart, any thing of this kind is not wanting to complete its satisfaction; yet it surely cannot be unpleasing to a generous mind to know, that the savours it confers are properly estimated.

I shall no longer, Sir, encroach upon your time: but 'ere I conclude, permit me to offer my sincere congratulations on your safe arrival in this kingdom, where, I trust, you may long continue to enjoy every happiness this world can afford: one source of happiness

happiness you have, at least, secured to yourfelf, that which must ever result from the consciousness of diffusing it to others.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

with the truest respect,

Your most obliged, most obedient,

and very humble fervant,

London, June 1, 1796.

REGINA MARIA ROCHE.



THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY AND THE

CHILDREN

OF THE

ABBEY.

CHAP. I.

Yellow sheafs from Ceres the cottage had crown'd, Green rushes were strew'd on the floor,

The casements sweet woodbine crept wantonly round, And deck'd the sod seats at the door.

CUNINGHAM.

Hall, sweet asylum of my infancy! Content and innocence reside beneath your humble roof, and charity unboastful of the good it renders. Hail, ye venerable trees! my happiest hours of childish gaiety were past beneath your shelter—then, careless as the birds that sung upon your boughs, I laughed the hours away, nor knew of evil.

VOL. I.

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Here surely I shall be guarded from duplicity; and if not happy, at least in some degree tranquil. Here unmolested may I wait, till the rude storm of sorrow is overblown, and my father's arms are again expanded to receive me.

Such were the words of Amanda, as the chaife, (which she had hired at a neighbouring village on quitting the mail) turned down a little verdant lane, almost darkened by old trees, whose interwoven branches allowed her scarcely a glimpse of her nurse's cottage, till she had reached the door.

A number of tender recollections rushing upon her mind, rendered her almost unable to alight; but the nurse and her husband, who had been impatiently watching for the arrival of their fondling. affifted her; and the former, obeying the dictates of nature and affection, half stifled her with carefles; the latter respectfully kist her hand, and dropt a tear of unutterable joy upon it. Lort he faid, he was furprifed to be fure at the alteration a few years had made in her person-Why, it feemed to him as if it was only the other day, fince he had carried her about in his arms, quite a little fairy. Then he begged to know, how his tear old captain was, and Mr. Ofcar-and whether the latter was not grown a very fine youth. Amanda, fmiling through her tears, endeavoured to answer



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his inquiries; but the was to much affected by her feelings, as to be fcarcely able to fpeak; and when by her defire he went out to discharge the chaife, and affift the young man; (who had travelled with her from London) to bring in her luggage, her head funk upon her nurse's bosom, whose arms encircled her waist. " My dear faithful nurse," she fobbed, " your poor child is again returned to feek an afylum from you." "And she is heartily welcome," replied the good creature, crying herfelf, " and I have taken care to have everything so nice, and so tidy, and so comfortable, that I warrant you the greatest laty in the land need not difdain your apartments; and here are two little girls, as well as myfelf, that will always be ready to attend, and serve, and obey you. This is Ellen, your own foster fifter; and this is Betfy, the little thing I had in the cradle when you went away-and I have belides, though I fay it mylelf that should not say it, two as fine lads as you could wish to see: they are now at work at a farmer's hard by; but they will be here presently. Thank Cot we are all happy, though obliged to earn our own bread; but 'tis fweeter for that reafon, fince labour gives us health to enjoy it, and contentment bleffes us all." Amanda affectionately embraced the two girls who were the pictures of health

health and cheerfulness, and was then conducted into a little parlour, which, with a small bed-chamber adjoining it, was appropriated to her use. The neatness of the room was truly pleasing; the sloor was nicely sanded; the hearth was drest with "flowers and fennel gay;" and the chimney-piece adorned with a range of broken tea-cups, "wisely kept for shew;" a clock ticked behind the door; and an ebony cupboard displayed a profusion of the showiest ware the country could produce.

And now the nurse, on "hospitable thought intent," hurried from Amanda to prepare her dinner. The chicken, as she said herself, was ready to pop down in a minute; Ellen tied the asparagus; and Betsy laid the cloth; Edwin drew his best cyder, and, having brought it in himself, retired to entertain his guest in the kitchen, (Amanda's travelling companion) before whom he had already set some of his most substantial fare.

Dinner in the opinion of Amanda was served in a moment; but her heart was too full to eat, tho' prest to do so with the utmost tenderness; a tenderness, which in truth was the means of overcoming her.

When infulted by malice, or oppress'd by cruelty, the heart can assume a stern fortitude foreign to its nature; but this seeming apathy vanishes at the voice voice of kindness, as the rigid frost of winter melts, before the gentle influence of the sun; and tears, gushing tears of gratitude and sensibility express its yielding feelings. Sacred are such tears; they slow from the sweet source of social affection: the good alone can shed them.

Her nurse's sons soon returned from their labour; two sine nut brown youths. They had been the companions of her infant sports, and she spoke to them with the most engaging affability.

Domestic blis and rural felicity Amanda had always been accustomed to, till within a short period; her attachment to them was still as strong as ever; and had her father been with her, she would have been happy.

It was now about the middle of June, and the whole country was glowing with luxuriant beauty. The cottage was in reality a comfortable commodious farm-house; it was situated in North Wales; and the romantic scenery surrounding it was highly pleasing to a disposition like Amanda's, which delighted equally in the sublime and beautiful. The front of the cottage was almost covered with woodbine, intermingled with vines; and the lane already mentioned, formed a shady avenue up to the very door; one side overlooked a deep valley, winding amongst hills clad in the liveliest verdure;

B 3

a clear stream, running thro' it, turned a mill in its course, and afforded a salutary coolness to the herds which ruminated on its banks; the other side commanded a view of rich pastures, terminated by a thick grove, whose natural vistas gave a view of cultivated farms, a small irregular village, the spire of its church, and a fine old castle, whose stately turrets rose above the trees surrounding them.

The farm-yard, at the back of the cottage, was stocked with poultry, and all the implements of rural industry; the garden was divided from it by a rude paling, interwoven with honeyfuckles and wild rofes; the part appropriated for vegetables divided from the part facred to Flora by rows of fruit trees; a craggy precipice hung over it, covered with purple and yellow flowers, thyme, and other odoriferous herbs, which afforded browzage to three or four goats that fkipt about in playful gambols; a filver ftream trickled down the precipice, and winding round a plantation of fhrubs, fell with a gentle murmur into the valley, Beneath a projecting fragment of the rock a natural receis was formed, thickly lined with moss, and planted round with a fuccession of beautiful flowers. I bestore to the end the total year

the location below the month without

Here

Here featter'd wild the lily of the vale Its balmy effence breathes; here cowflips hang The dewy head, and purple violets lurk-With all the lowly children of the shade.

THOMSON.

Of those scenes Amanda had but an imperfect recollection; such a faint idea as we retain of a confused but agreeable dream, which, tho' we cannot explain, leaves a pleafing impression behind.

Peculiar circumstances had driven her from the shelter of a parent's arms, to feek fecurity in retirement at this abode of fimplicity and peace. Here the perturbation of fear subsided; but the foft melancholy of her foul at times was heightened, when she reflected, that in this very place an unfortunate mother had expired almost at the moment of giving her birth.

Amanda was now about nineteen; a description of her face and person would not do her justice, as it never could convey a full idea of the ineffable sweetness and sensibility of the former, or the firiking elegance and beautiful proportion of the latter.

Sorrow had faded her vivid bloom: for the diftreffes of her father weighed heavy on her heart, and the bloffom drooped with the tree which fupported

B 4

ported it. Her agonized parent witnessing this sudden change, sent her into Wales, as much for health as for security: she was ordered goat's whey and gentle exercise; but she firmly believed, that consolation on her father's account could alone effect a cure.

Tho' the rose upon her cheek was pale, and the lustre of her eyes was fled, she was from those circumstances, (if less dazzling to the eye) more affecting to the heart. Cold and unfeeling indeed must that one have been, which could see her unmoved: for her's was that interesting face and figure, which had power to fix the wandering eye, and change the gaze of admiration into the throb of sensibility; nor was her mind inferior to the form that enshrined it.

She now exerted her spirits in gratitude to her humble but benevolent friends. Her arrival had occasioned a little sessival at the cottage: the teathings, which were kept more for show than use in the ebony cupboard, were now taken out, and carried by her desire to the recess in the garden; whither Mrs. Edwin followed the samily with a hot cake, Amanda thought large enough to serve half the principality.

The scene was delightful, and well calculated to banish all sadness but despair; Amanda was therefore

therefore cheered: for she was too much the child of piety ever to have felt its baneful influence. In the midst of her troubles she still looked up with humble considence to that Power, who has promised never to forsake the righteous.

The harmless jest, the jocund laugh went round, and Amanda enjoyed the innocent gaiety; for a benevolent mind will ever derive pleasure from the happiness of others. The declining sun now gave softer beauties to the extensive scenery; the lowing of the cattle was faintly echoed by the neighbouring hills; the cheerful carol of the peafant floated on the evening gale, that stole perfumes from beds of flowers, and wasted them around; the busy bees had now completed the delicious labour of the day, and with incessant hummings sought their various hives, while

Every copie

Deep-tangled, tree irregular, and bush

Were prodigal of harmony.

THOMSON.

To complete the concert, a blind harper, who supported himself by summer rambles through the country, strolled into the garden; and after a plentiful repast of bread and cheese, and nut brown ale, began playing.

The venerable appearance of the musician, the fimple melody of his harp, recalled to Amanda's recollection the tales of other times, in which the had so often delighted: it sent her soul back to the ages of old, to the days of other years, when bards rehearfed the exploits of heroes, and fung the praises of the dead. "While the ghosts of those they fung, came in their ruftling winds, and were feen to bend with joy towards the found of their praise." To proceed: in the beautiful language of Offian, the found was mournful and low, like the fong of the tomb; fuch as Fingal heard, when the crowded fighs of his bosom rose; and, " some of my heroes are low," faid the grey-haired king of Morven: "I hear the found of death on the harp. Offian, touch the trembling firing. Bid the forrow rife, that their spirits may fly with joy to Morven's woody hills." He touched the harp before the king; the found was mournful and low. " Bend forwards from your clouds," he faid, " ghofts of my fathers, bend. Lay by the red terror of your course. Receive the falling chief; whether he comes from a distant land, or rises from the rolling sea, let his robe of mist be near; his spear, that is formed of a cloud, place an half-extinguished meteor by his fide, in the form of the hero's fword. And, oh! let his countenance

nance be lovely, that his friends may delight in his presence. Bend from your clouds," he said,

ghofts of my fathers, bend."

The sweet enthusiasm which arose in Amanda's mind from her present situation her careful nurse soon put an end to, by reminding her of the heavy dew then falling. Amanda could have staid for hours in the garden; but resigning her inclination to her nurse's, she immediately accompanied her into the house. She soon felt inclined to retire to rest; and after a slight supper of strawberries and cream, (which was all they could prevail on her to touch) she withdrew to her chamber, attended by the nurse and her two daughters, who all thought their services requisite: and it was not without much difficulty Amanda persuaded them to the contrary.

Left to solitude, a tender awe stole upon the mind of Amanda, when she resected, that in this very room her mother had expired. The recollection of her sufferings, the sorrows her father and self had experienced since the period of her death, the distresses they still felt and might yet go thro, all raised a sudden agony in her soul, and tears burst forth. She went to the bed, and knelt beside it: "Oh! my mother," she cried, " if thy departed spirit is permitted to look down upon this world, hear and regard the supplications of thy B6 child.

child, for thy protection amidst the snares which may be spread for her. Yet, continued she after a pause, that Being, who has taken thee to himself, will, if I continue innocent, extend his guardian care: to Him therefore, to Him be raised the fervent prayer for rendering abortive every scheme of treachery.

She prayed with all the fervency of devotion; her wandering thoughts were all restrained, and her passions gradually subsided into a calm.

Warmed by a pure and ardent piety, that facred power which comes with healing on its wings to the afflicted children of humanity, she felt a placid hope spring in her heart, that whispered to it, all would yet be well.

She arose tranquil and animated. The inhabitants of the cottage had retired to repose; and she heard no found, save the ticking of the clock from the outside room. She went to the window, an raising the white calico curtain, looked down the valley; it was illumined by the beams of the moon, which tipt the trees with a shadowy silver, and threw a line of radiance on the clear rivulet. All was still, as if creation slept upon the bosom of serenity. Here, while contemplating the scene, a sudden slutter at the window startled her; and she saw in a moment after a bird slit across, and perch

perch upon a tree whose boughs shaded the casement: a soft serenade was immediately begun by the sweet and plaintive bird of night.

Amanda at length dropt the curtain, and fought repose; it soon blest her eye-lids, and shed a sweet oblivion over all her cares.

Sleep on, sweet innocent—
And when a soul is found fincerely so,
A thousand liv'ry'd angels lacquey it,
Driving far off all thought of harm or sin.
MILTON.

A servery to all her was a finding character.

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CHAP. II.

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Can these limbs,
Fram'd for the tender offices of love,
Endure the bitter gripes of smarting poverty?
When in a bed of straw we shrink together,
And the bleak winds shall whistle round our heads,
Wilt thou talk to me thus,
Thus hush my cares, and shelter me with love?

FITZALAN, the father of Amanda, was the descendant of an ancient Irish family, which had however, unfortunately, attained the summit of its prosperity long before his entrance into life; so that little more than a name, once dignified by illustrious actions, was left to its posterity. The parents of Fitzalan were supported by an employment under government, which enabled them to save a small sum for their son, and only child, who at an early period became its sole master, by their dying

dying within a short period of each other. As soon as he had in some degree recovered the shock of such calamities, he laid out his little pittance in the purchase of a commission, as a profession best suiting his inclinations and snances.

The war between America and France had then just commenced; and Fitzalan's regiment was amongst the first forces sent to the aid of the former. The scenes of war, the dreadfully affecting to a soul of exquisite sensibility, such as he possessed, had not power to damp the arder of his spirit: for, with the name, he inherited the hardy resolution of his progenitors.

He had once the good fortune to fave the life of a British soldier: he was one of a small party, who, by the treachery of their guides, were suddenly surprised in a wood, through which they were obliged to pass, to join another detachment of the army. Their only way in this alarming exigence was to retreat to the fort from whence they had but lately issued: encompassed as they were by the enemy, this was not atchieved without the greatest difficulty. Just as they had reached it, Fitzalan saw far behind them a poor soldier, who had been wounded at the first onset, just overtaken by two Indians. Yielding to the impulse of compassion in which all idea of self was lost, Fitzalan hastily turned.

Libertons.

turned to his affistance, and, flinging himself between the pursued and the pursuers, he kept them at bay till the poor creature had reached a place of safety. This action, performed at the imminent hazard of his life, secured him the lasting gratitude of the soldier, whose name was Edwin; the same, that now afforded an asylum to his daughter.

Edwin had committed some juvenile indiscretions, which highly incensed his parents: in despair at incurring their resentment, he enlisted with a recruiting party in their neighbourhood; hut accustomed all his life to peace and plenty, he did not by any means relish his new situation. His gratitude to Fitzalan was unbounded; he considered him as the preserver of his life; and, on the man's being dismissed, who had hitherto attended him as a servant, entreated he might be taken in his place. This entreaty Fitzalan complied with; he was pleased with Edwin's manner; and, having heard the little history of his missfortunes, promised, on their return to Europe, to intercede with his friends for him.

During his stay abroad, Fitzalan was promoted to a captain-lieutenancy: his pay was his only support, which of necessity checked the benevolence of a spirit, "open as day to melting charity."

On the regiment's return to Europe, he obtained Edwin's discharge, who longed to re-enter upon his former mode of life. He accompanied the penitent himself into Wales, where he was received with the truest rapture.

In grief for his loss, his parents had forgotten all resentment for his errors, which indeed had never been very great: they had lost their two remaining children during his absence, and now received him as the sole comfort and hope of their age.

His youthful protector was bleft with the warmest gratitude; tears filled his fine eyes, as he beheld the pleasure of the parents, and the contrition of the son; and he departed with that heartfelt pleasure, which ever attends, and rewards, an action of humanity.

He now accompanied his regiment into Scotland: they were quartered at a fort in a remote part of that kingdom.

Near the fort was a fine old abbey belonging to the family of Dunreath; the high hills which nearly encompassed it, were almost all covered with trees, whose dark shades gave an appearance of gloomy solitude to the building.

The present possessor, the Earl of Dunreath, was now far advanced in life: twice had he married,

ried, in expectation of a male heir to his large estates, and twice had he been disappointed. His first lady had expired immediately after the birth of a daughter. She had taken under her protection a young female, who, by unexpected vicissitudes in her family, was left destitute of support. On the demise of her patroness, she retired from the abbey to the house of a kinswoman in its vicinity: the Earl of Dunreath, accustomed to her society, selt his solitude doubly augmented by her absence. He had ever followed the dictates of inclination, and would not disobey them now: ere the term of mourning was expired, he offered his hand, and was accepted.

The fair orphian, now triumphant miftress of the abbey, found there was no longer occasion to check her natural propensities. Her foul was vain, unfeeling, and ambitious; and her sudden elevation broke down all the barriers which prudence had hitherto opposed to her passions.

She foon gained an absolute ascendancy over her lard—she knew how to assume the smile of complacence, and the accent of sensibility.

Forgetful of the kindness of her late patroness, the treated the infant she had left, with the cruelest neglect; a neglect, which was, if possible, increased, on the birth of her own daughter, as she could

could not bear that Augusta, (instead of possessing the whole) should only share the affection and estates of her father. She contrived by degrees to alienate the former from the innocent Malvina; and she trusted, she should yet find means to deprive her of the latter.

Terrified by violence, and depressed by severity, the child looked dejected and unhappy; and this appearance, Lady Dunreath made the Earl believe, proceeded from sulkiness and natural ill-humour. Her own child, unrestrained in any wish of her heart, was, from her playful gaiety, a constant source of amusement to the Earl: her mother had taken care to instruct her in all the little endearments, which, when united with infantine sweetness, allure almost imperceptibly the affections.

Malvina, ere the knew the meaning of fortow, thus became its prey; but in spite of envy or ill-treatment she grew up with all the graces of mind and form, that had diffinguished her mother: her air was at once elegant and commanding; her face replete with sweetness; and her fine eyes had a mixture of sensibility and languor in them, which spoke to the feeling soul.

Augusta was also a fine figure; but unpossessed of the winning graces of elegance and modesty, which adorned her fister, her form always ap-

peared.

Lougod

peared decorated with the most studied art, and her large eyes had a consident assurance in them, that seemed to expect and demand universal homage.

The warriors of the fort were welcome visitants at the Abbey, which Lady Dunreath contrived to render a scene of almost constant gaiety, by keeping up a continual intercourse with all the adjacent families, and entertaining all the strangers who came into its neighbourhood.

Lord Dunreath had long been a prey to infirmities, which at this period generally confined him to his room; but the his body was debilitated, his mind retained all its active powers.

The first appearance of the officers at the Abbey was at a ball given by Lady Dunreath, in consequence of their arrival near it; the gothic apartments were decorated, and lighted up with a splendor that at once displayed taste and magnificence; the lights, the music, the brilliancy and unusual gaiety of the company, all gave to the spirits of Malvina an agreeable flutter they had never before experienced; and a brighter bloom than usual stole o'er her lovely cheek.

The young co-heiresses were extremely admired by the military heroes. Malvina, as the eldest, opened the ball with the colonel; her form had

had attracted the eyes of Fitzalan, and vainly he attempted to withdraw them, till the lively converfation of Augusta, who honored him with her hand, forced him to restrain his glances, and pay her the fprightly attentions fo generally expectedwhen he came to turn to Malvina, he involuntarily detained her hand for a moment; she blushed; and the timid beam, that stole from her half-averted eyes, agitated his whole foul.

Partners were changed in the course of the evening, and he seized the first opportunity that offered, for engaging her: the foftness of her voice, the fimplicity yet elegance of her language, now captivated his heart, as much as her form had charmed his eyes.

Never had he before seen an object he thought half so lovely or engaging; with her he could not support that lively strain of conversation he had done with her fifter. Where the heart is much interested, it will not admit of trifling:

Fitzalan was now in the meridian of manhood: his flature was above the common fize, and elegance and dignity were conspicuous in it; his features were regularly handsome, and the fairness of his forehead proved what his complexion had been, till change of climate and hardship had embrowned it; the expression of his conntenance was somewhat what plaintive; his eyes had a sweetness in them, that spoke a foul of the tenderest feelings; and the smile that played around his mouth, would have adorned a face of semale beauty.

When the dance with Lady Malvina was over, Lady Augusta took care for the remainder of the evening to engross all his attention. She thought him by far the handsomest man in the room, and gave him no opportunity of avoiding her; gallantry obliged him to return her affiduities, and he was by his brother officers set down in the list of her adorers. This mistake he encouraged; he could bear raillery on an indifferent subject; and joined in the mirth, which the idea of his laying siege to the young heiress occasioned.

He deluded himself with no salse hopes relative to the real object of his passion; he knew the obstacles between them were insuperable; but his heart was too proud to complain of sate: he shook off all appearance of melancholy, and seemed more animated than ever.

His visits at the Abbey became constant; Lady Augusta took them to herself, and encouraged his attentions: as her mother rendered her perfect mistress of her own actions, she had generally a levee of red coats every morning in her dressing room. Lady Malvina seldom appeared; she was

at these times almost always employed in reading to her father; when that was not the case, her own favorite avocations often detained her in her room; or else she wandered out, about the romantic rocks on the sea-shore; she delighted in solitary rambles, and loved to visit the old peasants, who told her tales of her departed mother's goodness; drawing tears of sorrow from her eyes, at the irreparable loss she had suftained by her death.

Fitzalan went one morning as usual to the Abbey to pay his customary visit: as he went thro' the gallery which led to Lady Augusta's dreffing-room, his eyes were caught by two beautiful portraits of the Earl's daughters; an artist, by his express desire, had come to the Abbey to draw them; they were but just finished, and that morning placed in the gallery.

Lady Augusta appeared negligently reclined upon a sofa, in a verdant alcove; the slowing drapery of the loose robe in which she was habited, set off her sine sigure; little Cupids were seen fanning aside her dark-brown hair, and strewing roses on her pillow.

Lady Malvina was represented in the simple attire of a peasant girl, leaning on a little graffy hillock, whose foot was washed by a clear stream; while her slock browzed around, and her dog

rested beneath the shade of an old tree, that waved its branches over her head, and seemed sheltering her from the beams of a meridian sun.

"Beautiful portrait," cried Fitzalan, " fweet resemblance of a seraphic form."

He heard a foft figh behind him; he started, turned, and perceived Lady Malvina; in the utmost consusion he faltered out his admiration of the pictures, and not knowing what he did, fixed his eyes on Lady Augusta's, exclaiming, "How beautiful." "'Tis very handsome indeed," said Malvina, with a more pensive voice than usual, and led the way to her sister's dressing-room.

Lady Augusta was spangling some ribbon; but at Fitzalan's entrance she threw it aside, and asked him, if he had been admiring her picture: Yes, he said, 'twas that alone had prevented his before paying his homage to the original. He proceeded in a strain of compliments, which had more gallantry than sincerity in them. In the course of their trisling he snatched a knot of the spangled ribbon, and pinning it next his heart, declared it should remain there as a talisman against all suture impressions.

He stole a glance at Lady Malvina; she held a book in her hand; but her eyes were turned towards him, and a deadly paleness overspread her countenance.

Fitzalan's spirits vanished; he started up, and declared he must be gone immediately. The dejection of Lady Malvina dwelt upon his heart; it flattered its fondness, but pained its fensibility. He left the fort in the evening, immediately after he had retired from the mess; he strolled to the fea-fide, and rambled a confiderable way among the rocks. The scene was wild and solemn; the fhadows of evening were beginning to descend; the waves stole with low murmurs upon the shore; and a foft breeze gently agitated the marine plants, that grew amongst the crevices of the rocks; already were the sea fowl, with harsh and melancholy cries, flocking to their nefts, some lightly skimming o'er the water, while others were feen, like dark clouds, rifing from the long heath on the neighbouring hills. Fitzalan purfued his way in deep and melancholy meditation, from which a plaintive Scotch air, fung by the melting voice of harmony itself, roused him. He looked towards the fport from whence the found proceeded, and beheld Lady Malvina standing on a low rock, a projection of it affording her support. Nothing could be more picturesque, than her appearance; fhe looked like one of the beautiful forms, which Offian fo often describes; her white dress fluttered in the wind, and her dark hair hung di-VOL. I. thevelled

Fish the clouding and fyrighthy.

shevelled around her. Fitzalan moved foftly, and stopt behind her; she wept as she sung, and wiped away her tears as the ceased finging: the fighed heavily. "Ah! my mother," fhe exclaimed, "why was Malvina left behind you?" "To bless and to improve mankind," cried Fitzalan. She screamed, and would have fallen, had he not caught her in his arms: he prevailed on her to fit down upon the rock, and allow him to support her, till her agitation had fubfided. " And why", (cried he) " should Lady Malvina give way to melancholy, bleft as she is with all that can render life defirable? Why feek its indulgence, by rambling about those dreary rocks, fit haunts alone, he might have added, for wretchedness and me? Can I help wondering at your dejection," (he continued) " when to all appearance (at least) I fee you possessed of every thing requisite to constitute felicity."

"Appearances are often deceitful," said Malvina, (forgetting in that moment the caution she had hitherto inviolably observed, of never hinting at the ill-treatment she received from the Countess of Dunreath and her daughter.) "Appearances are often deceitful," she said, "as I, alas, too fatally experience. The glare, the oftentation of wealth, a soul of sensibility would willingly resign for privacy and plainness, if they were to be attended with real friendship and sympathy. And

"And how few," cried Fitzalan, turning his expressive eyes upon her face, "can know Lady Malvina without feeling friendship for her virtues, and sympathy for her sorrows." As he spoke, he pressed her hand against his heart, and she felt the knot of ribbon he had snatched from her sister: she instantly withdrew her hand, and darting a haughty glance at him, "Captain Fitzalan," said she, "you were going, I believe, to Lady Augusta; let me not detain you."

Fitzalan's passions were no longer under the dominion of reason; he tore the ribbon from his breast, and slung it into the sea—"Going to Lady Augusta?" he exclaimed—" and is her lovely sister then really deceived? Ah! Lady Malvina, I now gaze on the dear attraction, that drew me to the Abbey. The seelings of a real, a hopeless passion could ill support raillery or observation: I hid my passion within the recesses of my heart, and gladly allowed my visits to be placed to the account of an object truly indifferent, that I might have opportunities of seeing an object I adored."

Malvina blushed and trembled: "Fitzalan," cried she, after a pause, "I detest deceit."

"I abhor it too, Lady Malvina," faid he; but why should I now endeavour to prove my fincerity, when I know it is so very immaterial?

Excuse

Excuse me for what I have already uttered, and believe, that the susceptible, I am not aspiring."

He then presented his hand to Malvina; she descended-from her seat, and they walked towards the Abbey. Lady Malvina's pace was flow; and her blushes, had Fitzalan looked at her, would have expressed more pleasure than resentment: fhe feemed to expect a still further declaration; but Fitzalan was too confused to speak; nor indeed was it his intention again to indulge himfelf on the dangerous subject. They proceeded in silence; at the Abbey gate they stopt, and he wished her good night. " Shall we not foon fee you at the Abbey?" exclaimed Lady Malvina in a flurried voice, which feemed to fay, she thought his adieu rather an hasty one. " No, my lovely friend," cried Fitzalan, paufing, while he looked upon her with the most impassioned tenderness-" in future I shall chiefly confine myself to the fort." "Do you dread an invasion?" asked she, smiling, while a stolen glance of her eye gave peculiar meaning to her words. "I long dreaded that," cried he, in the same strain, " and my fears were well founded; but I must now muster all my powers to dislodge the enemy." He kissed her hand, and precipitately retired.

Lady Malvina repaired to her chamber, in such a tumult of pleasure as she had never before experienced. She admired Fitzalan from the sirst evening she beheld him; tho' his attentions were directed to her sister, the language of his eyes to her contradicted any attachment, these attentions might have intimated; his gentleness and sensibility seemed congenial to her own. Hitherto she had been the slave of tyranny and caprice; and now, for the first time, experienced that soothing tenderness, her wounded seelings had so long sighed for. She was agitated and delighted; she overlooked every obstacle to her wishes, and waited impatiently a farther explanation of Fitzalan's sentiments.

Far different were his feelings from her's: to know he was beloved, could scarcely yield him pleasure, when he reflected on his hopeless situation, which forbid his availing himself of any advantage, that knowledge might have afforded. Of an union indeed he did not dare to think, since its consequences, he knew, must be destruction: for rigid and austere as the Earl was represented, he could not flatter himself he would ever pardon such a step; and the means of supporting Lady Malvina, in any degree of comfort, he did not possess himself. He determined, as much as possible, to

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avoid her presence, and regretted continually having yielded to the impulse of his heart, and revealed his love, since he believed it had augmented her's.

By degrees he discontinued his visits at the Abbey; but he often met Lady Malvina at parties in the neighbourhood: caution, however, always sealed his lips, and every appearance of particularity was avoided. The time now approached for the departure of the regiment from Scotland; and Lady Malvina, instead of the explanation she so sondly expected, so ardently desired, saw Fitzalan studious to avoid her.

The disappointment this conduct gave rise to, was too much for the tender and romantic heart of Malvina to bear without secretly repining. Society grew irksome; she became more than ever attached to solitary rambles, which gave her opportunities of indulging her sorrows without restraint; sorrows, pride often reproached her for experiencing.

It was within a week of the change of garrison, when Malvina repaired one evening to the rock, where Fitzalan had disclosed his tenderness; a similarity of feeling led him thither; he saw his danger, but had no power to retreat; he sat down by Malvina, and they conversed for some time on

indifferent

indifferent subjects: at last, after the pause of a minute, Malvina exclaimed, "you go then, Fitz-alan, never, never, I suppose, to return here again." "Tis probable I may not indeed," faid he. "Then we shall never meet again," cried she, while a trickling tear stole down her lovely cheek, which, tinged as it was with the slush of agitation, looked now like a half-blown rose moistened with the dews of early morning.

"Yes, my lovely friend," faid he, "we shall meet again—we shall meet in a better place; in that heaven," continued he, sighing, and laying his cold trembling hand on her's, "which will recompense all our sufferings." "You are melancholy to-night, Fitzalan," cried Lady Malvina, in a voice scarcely articulate.

overcome by her emotion, and forgetting in a moment all his resolutions—"Oh! can you wonder at my melancholy, when I know not, but that this is the last time I shall see the only woman I ever loved—when I know, that in bidding her adicu, I resign all the pleasure, the happiness of my life."

Malyina could no longer restrain her feelings; the sunk upon his thoulder, and wept. "Good heavens," cried Fitzalan, almost trembling hereath

neath the lovely burthen he supported—"What a cruel situation is mine! But, Malvina, I will not, cannot plunge you in destruction. Led by necessity, as well as choice, to embrace the profession of a soldier, I have no income, but what is derived from that profession: the my own distresses I could bear with fortitude, your's would totally unman me; nor would my honor be less injured than my peace, were you involved in difficulties on my account. Our separation is therefore, alas, inevitable."

"Oh! no," exclaimed Malvina, "the difficulties you have mentioned, will vanish. My father's affections were early alienated from me; and my fate is of little confequence to him-nay, I have reason to believe he will be glad of an excuse for leaving his large possessions to Augusta; and oh! how little shall I envy her those possessions, if the happy deftiny I now look forward to, is mine." As the spoke, her mild eyes rested on the face of Fitzalan, who clasped her to his bosom in a fudden transport of tenderness. I "But the my father is partial to Augusta," the continued "I am fure he will not be unnatural to me; and the he may withhold affluence, he will, I am confident, allow me a competence—nay, Lady Dunreath, I believe, in pleasure at my removal from the Abbey, would

would, if he hefitated, in that respect, become my intercessor."

The energy with which Malvina spoke, convinced Fitzalan of the strength of her affection. An exstacy, never before felt, pervaded his soul at the idea of being so beloved: vainly did prudence whisper, that Malvina might be deluding herself with false hopes; the suggestions of love triumphed over every consideration; and again solding the fair being he held in his arms, to his heart, he softly asked, would she, at all events, unite her destiny with his.

Lady Malvina, who firmly believed what she had said to him would really happen, and who deemed a separation from him the greatest missortune which could possibly befall her, blushed, and saltering yielded a willing consent.

The means of accomplishing their wishes now occupied their thoughts: Fitzalan's imagination was too fertile, not soon to suggest a scheme, which had a probability of success; he resolved to entrust the chaplain of the regiment with the affair, and request his attendance the ensuing night in the chapel of the Abbey, where Lady Malvina promised to meet them with her maid, on whose secrety she thought she could rely.

It was fettled, that Fitzalan should pay a visit the next morning at the Abbey, and give Malvina a certain sign, if he succeeded with the chaplain.

The increasing darkness at length reminded them of the lateness of the hour: Fitzalan conducted Malvina to the Abbey gate, where they separated, each involved in a tumult of hopes, fears, and wishes.

The next morning Lady Malvina brought her work into her fifter's dreffing-room: at last Fitz-alan entered; he was attacked by Augusta for his long absence, which he excused by pleading regimental business. After trifling some time with her, he prevailed on her to sit down to the harpsichord; and then glancing at Malvina, he gave her the promised signal.

Her conscious eyes were instantly bent to the ground; a crimson glow was suddenly succeeded by a deadly paleness; her head sunk upon her bosom; and her agitation must have excited suspicions, had it been perceived; but Fitzalan purposely bent over her sister, and thus gave her an opportunity of retiring unnoticed from the room. As soon as she had regained a little composure, she called her maid, and, after receiving many promises of secresy, unfolded to her the whole affair. It was long past the midnight hour, ere Malvina would

would attempt repairing to the chapel; when the at last rose for that purpose: she trembled univerfally; a kind of horror chilled her heart; the hegan to fear she was about doing wrong, and hefitated; but when the reflected on the noble generofity of Fitzalan, and that the herfelf had precipitated him to the measure they were about taking, her hefitation was over; and leaning on her maid, the stole thro' the winding galleries, and lightly descending the stairs, entered the long hall, which terminated in a dark arched passage, that opened into the chapel. brother to according the land

This was a wild and gloomy structure, retaining every where veftiges of that monkish superstition, which had erected it , beneath it were the vaults which contained the ancestors of the Earl of Dunreath, whose deeds and titles were enumerated on gothic monuments witheir dust-covered banners waving around in fullen dignity to the rude gale, which found admittance thro' the broken windows.

The light, which the maid held, produced deep shadows, that heightened the solemnity of the place.

"They are not here," faid Malvina, cafting her fearful eyes around. She went to the door, which opened into a thick wood; but here the only heard heard the breeze rustling amongst the trees; she turned from it, and sinking upon the steps of the altar, gave way to an agony of tears and lamentations. A low murmur reached her ear; she started up; the chapel door was gently pushed open, and Fitzalan entered with the chaplain: they had been watching in the wood for the appearance of light. Malvina was supported to the altar, and a few minutes made her the wife of Fitzalan.

She had not the courage, till within a day or two previous to the regiment's departure from Scotland, to acquaint the Earl with her marriage: the Countess already knew it, thro' the means of Malvina's woman, who was a creature of her own. Lady Dunreath exulted at the prospect of Malvina's ruin; it at once gratisted the malevolence of her soul, and the avaricious desire she had of increasing her own daughter's fortune: she had, besides, another reason to rejoice at it; this was, the attachment Lady Augusta had formed for Fitzalan, which, her mother seared, would have precipitated her into a step, as imprudent as her sister's, had she not been beforehand with her.

This fear the impetuous passions of Lady Augusta naturally excited. She really loved Fitzalan: a degree of frantic rage possessed her at his marriage; she cursed her sister in the bitterness of her

heart,

heart, and joined with Lady Dunreath in working up the Earl's naturally auftere and violent passions into such a paroxism of sury and resentment, that he at last solemnly resused forgiveness to Malvina, and bid her never more appear in his presence.

She now began to tread the thorny path of life; and tho' her guide was tender and affectionate, nothing could allay her anguish for having involved him in difficulties, which his noble spirit could ill brook, or ftruggle against. The first year of their union she had a fon, who was called after her father, Oscar Dunreath: the four years that succeeded his birth, were passed in wretchedness, that baffles description. At the expiration of this period their debts were fo increased. Fitzalan was compelled to fell out on half-pay. Lady Malvina now expected an addition to her family; her fituation, the hoped, would move her father's heart, and refolved to affay every thing, which afforded the smallest prospect of obtaining comfort for her husband and his babes: she prevailed on him therefore to carry her to Scotland.

They lodged at a peasant's in the neighbourhood of the Abbey: he informed them, the Earl's infirmities were daily increasing; and that Lady Dunreath had just celebrated her daughter's marriage with the Marquis of Roseline. This nobleman had passionately admired Lady Malvina; an admiration the Countess always wished transferred to her daughter. On the marriage of Malvina he went abroad: his passion was conquered, ere he returned to Scotland, and he disdained not the overtures made for his alliance from the Abbey. His favorite propensities, avarice and pride, were indeed gratished by the possession of the Earl of Dunreath's sole heiress.

The day after her arrival, Lady Malvina sent little Oscar, with the old peasant, to the Abbey: Oscar was a persect cherubim.

The bloom of opining flowers, unfully'd beauty, Softness and sweet st innocence he wore, And look'd like nature in the world's first spring.

Lady Malvina gave him a letter for the Earl, in which, after pathetically describing her situation, she besought him, to let the uplisted hands of innocence plead her cause. The peasant watched, till the hour came for Lady Dunreath to go out in her carriage, as was her daily custom: he then desired to be conducted to the Earl, and was accordingly ushered into his presence; he found him alone, and briefly informed him of his errand. The Earl frowned, and looked agitated; but did not

not by any means express that displeasure, which the peafant had expected: feeling for himfelf, indeed, had lately foftened his heart; he was unhappy; his wife and daughter had attained the completion of their wishes, and no longer paid him the attention his age required. He refused, however, to accept the letter: little Ofcar, who had been gazing on him from the moment he entered the apartment, now ran forward; gently stroaking his hand, he smiled in his face, and exclaimed, "ah! pray do-take poor mamma's letter." The Earl involuntarily took it; as he read, the muscles of his face began to work, and a tear dropt from him. " Poor mamma cries too," faid Ofcar, upon whose hand the tear fell. " Why did your mamma fend you to me?" faid the Earl. " Because she said," cried Oscar, "that you were my grandpapa-and she bids me love you, and teaches me every day to pray for you." "Heaven bless you, my lovely prattler," exclaimed the Earl, with sudden emotion, patting his head as he fpoke. At this moment Lady Dunreath rushed into the apartment: one of her favorites had followed her, to relate the scene that was going forward within it; and she had returned, with all possible expedition, to counteract any dangerous impressions that might be made upon the Earl's mind

mind. Rage inflamed her countenance; the Earl knew the violence of her temper; he was unequal to contention, and hastily motioned for the peasant to retire with the child. The account of his reception excited the most flattering hopes in the bofom of his mother: she counted the tedious hours, in expectation of a kind fummons to the Abbey; but no fuch fummons came. The next morning the child was fent to it; but the porter refused him admittance, by the express command of the Earl, he said. Frightened at his rudeness, the child returned weeping to his mother, whose blafted expectations wrung her heart with agony, and tears and lamentations broke from her. evening was far advanced, when fuddenly her features brightened: "I will go," cried she, starting up-" I will again try to melt his obduracy. Oh! with what lowliness should a child bend before an offended parent. Oh! with what fortitude, what patience, should a wife, a mother, try to overcome difficulties, which she is conscious of having precipitated the objects of her tenderest affections into."

The night was dark and tempestuous: she would not suffer Fitzalan to attend her, but proceeded to the Abbey, leaning on the peasant's arm. She would not be repulsed at the door, but forced

forced her way into the hall: here Lady Dunreath met her, and, with mingled pride and cruelty, refused her access to her father, declaring it was by his desire she did so. "Let me see him but for a moment," said the lovely suppliant, clasping her white and emaciated hands together—" by all that is tender in humanity, I beseech you to grant my request."

"Turn this frantic woman from the Abbey," faid the implacable Lady Dunreath, trembling with passion—" at your peril suffer her to continue here. The peace of your Lord is too precious to be disturbed by her exclamations."

The imperious order was instantly obeyed, tho', as Cordelia says, "it was a night, when one would not have turned an enemy's dog from the door." The rain poured in torrents; the sea roared with awful violence; and the wind raged thro' the wood, as if it would tear up the trees by the roots. The peasant charitably slung his plaid over Malvina; she moved mechanically along; her senses appeared quite stupisted. Fitzalan watched for her at the door; she rushed into his extended arms, and sainted; it was long, ere she shewed any symptoms of returning life. Fitzalan wept over her in the anguish and distraction of his soul; and scarcely could he forbear executing the Being

Being, who had so grievously afflicted her gentle spirit: by degrees she revived; and, as she pressed him seebly to her breast, exclaimed, "the sinal stroke is given—I have been turned from my father's door."

The cottage, in which they lodged, afforded but few of the necessaries, and none of the comforts of life; such, at least, as they had been accustomed to. In Malvina's present situation, Fitzalan dreaded the loss of her life, should they continue in their present abode; but whither could he take her, wanderer as he was upon the face of the earth? At length the faithful Edwin occurred to his recollection: his house, he was consident, would afford them a comfortable asylum, where Lady Malvina would experience all that tenderness and care, her situation demanded.

He immediately fet about procuring a conveyance, and the following morning Malvina bid a last adieu to Scotland.

Lady Dunreath, in the mean time, suffered torture: after she had seen Malvina turned from the Abbey, she returned to her apartment; it was surnished with the most luxurious elegance, yet could she not rest within it. Conscience already told her, if Malvina died, she must consider herself her murderer; her pale and woe-worn image seemed feemed still before her; a cold terror oppressed her heart, which the horrors of the night augmented; the tempest shook the battlements of the Abbey; and the wind, which howled thro' the galleries, feemed like the fad moans of some wandering spirit of the pile, bewailing the fate of one of its fairest daughters. To cruelty and ingratitude Lady Dunreath had added deceit: her Lord was yielding to the folicitations of his child, when the counteracted his intentions by a tale of false-The visions of the night were also dreadhood. ful: Malvina appeared expiring before her; and the late Lady Dunreath, by her bed-fide, reproaching her barbarity. " Oh cruel!" ghaftly figure feemed to fay, " is it you, whom I fostered in my befom, that have done this deeddriven forth my child, a forlorn and wretched wanderer.

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Oh conscience, how awful are thy terrors: thou art the vicegerent of heaven, and anticipate its vengeance, ere the final hour of retribution arrives. Guilt may be triumphant, but never, never can be happy: it finds no shield against thy stings and arrows. The heart thou smitest, bleeds in every pore, and sighs amidst gaiety and splendor,

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The unfortunate travellers were welcomed with the truest hospitality by the grateful Edwin: he had married, soon after his return from America, a young girl, to whom, from his earliest youth, he was attached. His parents died soon after his union, and the whole of their little patrimony devolved to him. Soothed and attended with the utmost tenderness and respect, Fitzalan hoped Lady Malvina would here regain her health and peace: he intended, after her recovery, to endeavour to be put on full-pay; and trusted he should prevail on her to continue at the farm.

At length the hour came, in which she gave a daughter to his arms. From the beginning of her illness the people about her were alarmed; too soon was it proved, their alarms were well founded: she lived after the birth of her infant but a few minutes, and died embracing her hulband, and blessing his children.

Fitzalan's feelings cannot well be described: they were at first too much for reason, and he continued some time in perfect stupefaction. When he regained his sensibility, his grief was not outrageous; it was that deep, still sorrow, which saltens on the heart, and cannot vent itself in tears or lamentations: he sat with calmness by the bed, where the beautiful remains of Malvina lay; he gazed.

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gazed, without shrinking, on her pale face, which death, as if in pity to his feelings, had not dissigured; he kissed her cold lips, continually exclaiming, "Oh! had we never met, she might still have been living." His language was something like that of a poet of her own country.

Woe modest crimson tipped flow r I met thee in a luckless hour.

It was when he faw them about removing her, that all the tempest of his grief broke forth. how impossible to describe the anguish of the poor widower's heart, when he returned from feeing his Malvina laid in her last receptacle: he shut himfelf up in the room where she had expired, and ordered no one to approach him; he threw himself upon her bed; he laid his cheek upon her pillow, he grasped it to his bosom, he wetted it with tears, because she had breathed upon it; oh how still, how dreary, how defolate, did all appear around him; " and shall this desolation never more be enlivened," he exclaimed, "by the foft music of Malvina's voice? Shall these eyes never more be. cheered by beholding her angelic face? Exhaufted by his feelings, he funk into a flumber; he dreamt of Malvina, and thought she lay beside him; he awokeawoke with sudden exstacy, and, under the strong impression of the dream, stretched out his arms to enfold her. Alas, all was empty void: he started up, he grouned in the bitterness of his soul; he traversed the room with a distracted pace; he sat him down in the little window, from whence he could view the spire of the church, (now glistening in the moon-beams) by which she was interred. "Deep, still, and profound," cried he, is now the sleep of my Malvina—the voice of love cannot awake her from it; nor does she now dream of her midnight mourner."

The cold breeze of night blew upon his forehead; but he heeded it not: his whole foul was full of Malvina, whom torturing fancy presented to his view, in the habiliments of the grave. "And is this emaciated form, this pale face," he exclaimed, as if he had really seen her, "all that remain of elegance and beauty, once unequalled."

A native sense of religion alone checked the transports of his grief: that sweet, that sacred Power, which pours balm upon the wounds of sorrow, and saves its children from despair; that Power whispered to his heart, a patient submission to the will of heaven was the surest means he could attain, of again rejoining his Malvina.

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She was interred in the village church-yard: the head of the grave a stone was placed, on hich was rudely cut,

MALVINA FITZALAN,

Fitzalan would not permit her empty title to be on it: " she is buried," he said, " as the wife of a wretched soldier, not as the daughter of a wealthy Peer."

She had requested her infant might be called after her own mother; her request was sacred to Fitzalan, and it was baptized by the united names of Amanda Malvina. Mrs. Edwin was then nursing her first girl; but she sent it out, and took the infant of Fitzalan in its place to her bosom.

The money, which Fitzalan had procured by disposing of his commission, was now nearly exhausted; but his mind was too enervated to allow him to think of any project for future support. Lady Malvina was deceased two months, when a nobleman came into the neighbourhood, with whom Fitzalan had once been intimately acquainted: the acquaintance was now renewed; and Fitzalan's appearance, with the little history of his missortunes, so much affected and interested his friend, that without solicitation he procured him

him a company in a regiment, then stationed a England. Thus did Fitzalan again enter into active life; but his spirits were broken, and his constitution injured. Four years he continued in the army; when, pining to have his children, (all that now remained of a woman he adored) under his own care, he obtained, thro' the interest of his friend, leave to sell out: Oscar was then eight and Amanda sour; the delighted sather, as he held them to his heart, wept over them tears of mingled pain and pleasure.

He had seen in Devonshire, where he was quartered for some time, a little romantic solitude, quite adapted to his tafte and finances: he proposed for it, and foon became its proprietor. Hither he carried his children, much against the inclination of the Edwins, who loved them as their own: two excellent schools in the neighbourhood gave them the usual advantages of genteel education; but as they were only day-scholars, the improvement, or rather forming of their morals, was the pleafing talk of their father. To his affiduous care too they were indebted for the rapid progress they made in their studies, and for the graceful simplicity of their manners: they rewarded his care, and grew up as amiable and lovely as his fondest wishes could defire. As Ofcar advanced in life, his father

ther began to experience new cares; for he had not the power of putting him in the way of making any provision for himself. A military life was what Ofcar appeared anxious for: he had early conceived a predilection for it, from hearing his father speak of the services he had seen; but tho' he possessed quite the spirit of a hero, he had the truest tenderness, the most engaging softness of disposition; his temper was indeed at once mild, artlessand affectionate. He was about eighteen, when the proprietor of the estate, on which his father held his farm, died, and his heir, a colonel in the army, immediately came down from London to take formal possession: he soon became acquainted with Fitzalan, who, in the course of conversation one day, expressed the anxiety he suffered on his fon's account. The colonel faid he was a fine youth, and it was a pity he was not provided for: he left Devonshire, however, shortly after this, without appearing in the least interested about him. to drow bellinger

Fitzalan's heart was oppressed with anxiety; he could not purchase for his son, without depriving himself of support. With the Nobleman who had formerly served him so essentially, he had kept up no intercourse, since he quitted the army; but he frequently heard of him, and was told he you. I.

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had become quite a man of the world, which was an implication of his having loft all feeling: an application to him, therefore, he feared would be unavailing, and he felt too proud to subject himfelf to a repulse.

From this disquietude he was unexpectedly relieved by a letter from the Earl of Cherbury, his yet kind friend, informing him, he had procured an ensigncy for Oscar, in Colonel Belgrave's regiment, which he considered a very fortunate circumstance, as the Colonel, he was consident, from personally knowing the young gentleman, would render him every service in his power. The Earl chid Fitzalan, for never having kept up a correspondence with him; assured him, he had never forgotten the friendship of their earlier years'; and that he had gladly seized the first opportunity which offered, of serving him in the person of his son; which opportunity he was indebted to Colonel Belgrave for.

Fitzalan's foul was filled with gratitude and rapture; he immediately wrote to the Earl, and the Colonel, in terms expressive of his feelings. Col. Belgrave received his thanks, as if he had really deserved them; but this was not by any means the case: he was a man devoid of sensibility, and had never once thought of serving Fitzalan or his fon; his mentioning them was merely accidental.

In a large company, of which the Earl of Cherbury was one, the discourse happened to turn on the Dunreath family, and by degrees led to Fitzalan, who was severally blamed and pitied for his connexion with it; the subject was, in the opinion of Col. Belgrave, so apropos, he could not forbear describing his present situation, and inquietude about his son, who, he said he fancied, must, like a second Cincinnatus, take the plough-share instead of the sword.

Lord Cherbury lost no part of his discourse; the immersed in politics, and other intricate concerns, he yet retained, and was ready to obey, the distates of humanity, particularly when they did not interfere with his own interests; he therefore directly conceived the design of serving his old friend.

Oscar soon quitted Devonshire after his appointment, and brought a letter from his father to the Colonel, in which he was strongly recommended to his protection, as one unskilled in the ways of men.

And now all Fitzalan's care devolved upon Amanda; and most amply did she recompense it. To the improvement of her genius, the cultivation of her talents, the promotion of her father's hap-

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piness, seemed her first incentive; without him no amusement was enjoyed, without him no study entered upon; he was her friend, guardian, and protector; and no language can express, no heart, (except a paternal one) conceive the rapture he felt, at seeing a creature grow under

his forming hand

That what seem'd fair in all the world, seem'd now Mean, or in her contain'd.

Some years had elapfed fince Ofcar's departure, ere Col. Belgrave returned into their neighbourhood; he came foon after his nuptials had been celebrated in Ireland, with a lady of that country, whom Oscar's letters described, as possessing every mental and personal charm, which could please or captivate the heart. Col. Belgrave came unaccompanied by his fair bride. Fitzalan, who believed him his benefactor, and confequently regarded him as a friend, (still thinking it was thro' his means Lord Cherbury had ferved him) immediately waited upon him, and invited him to his house. The invitation, after some time, was accepted; but had he imagined what an attraction the house contained, he would not have long hesitated

tated about entering it: he was a man, indeed, of the most depraved principles, and an object he admired, no tie, or situation, however sacred, could guard from his pursuit.

Amanda was too much a child, when he was last in the country, to attract his observation; he had therefore no idea, that the blossom he then so carelessly overlooked, had since expanded into such beauty.

How great was then his rapture and surprise, when Fitzalan led into the room, where he had received him, a tall, elegantly formed girl, whose rosy cheeks were dimpled with the softest smile of complacence, and whose sine blue eyes beamed with modesty and gratitude upon him: he instantly marked her for his prey, and blessed his lucky stars, which had inspired Fitzalan with the idea of his being his benefactor; since that would give him freer access to the house, than he could otherwise have hoped for.

From this time he became almost an inmate at it, except when he chose to contrive little parties at his own, for Amanda: he took every opportunity that offered, without observation, to try and ingratiate himself in her favor; those opportunities the unsuspecting temper of Fitzalan allowed to be frequent; he would as soon have

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of her brother, and never, therefore, prevented her walking out with him, when he defired it, or receiving him in the morning, while he (himself) was absent about the affairs of his farm; delighted to think the conversation or talents of his daughter (for Amanda frequently sung and played for the Colonel) could contribute to the amusement of his friend. Amanda innocently increased his slame, by the attention she paid him, which she considered but a just tribute of gratitude for his fervices; she delighted in talking to him of her dear Oscar; and often mentioned his lady, but was surprised to find he always waved the latter subject.

Belgrave could not long restrain the impetuosity of his passions: the situation of Fitzalan, (which he knew to be a distressed one) would, he fancied, forward his designs on his daughter; and what those designs were, he, by degrees, in a retired walk one day, unfolded to Amanda.

At first she did not perfectly understand him; but when, with increasing audacity, he explained himself more fully, horror, indignation, and surprise took possession of her breast, and yielding to their feelings, she turned, and sled to the house, as if from a monster. Belgrave was provoked and mortified:

mortified: the foftness of her manners had tempted him to believe, he was not indifferent to her, and that she would prove an easy conquest.

Poor Amanda would not appear in the presence of her father, till she had in some degree regained composure, as she feared the smallest intimation of the affair might occasion fatal consequences: as she fat with him, a letter was brought her; she could not think Belgrave would have the effrontery to write; and opened it, supposing it came from some acquaintance in the neighbourhood. How great was the shock she sustained, on finding it from him; having thrown off the mask, he determined no longer to assume any disguise. Her paleness and confusion alarmed her father, and he instantly demanded the cause of her agitation: she found longer concealment was impossible, and throwing herfelf at her father's feet, befought him, as she put the letter into his hands, to restrain his pasfion. When he perufed it, he raifed her up, and commanded her, as the valued his love or happiness, to inform him of every particular, relative to the infult she had received; she obeyed, tho' terrified to behold her father trembling with emotion. When the concluded, he tenderly embraced her, and bidding her confine herfelf to the house, rose, and took down his hat: it was easy to guess, DA whither

whither he was going; her terror increased; and in a voice scarcely articulate, she befought him not to risk his safety. He commanded her filence with a sternness never before assumed: his manner awed her; but when the faw him leaving the room, her feelings could no longer be controlled; the rushed after him, and flinging the arms round his neck, fainted on it. In this fituation the unhappy father was compelled to leave her to the care of a maid, left her pathetic remonstrances should delay the vengeance he resolved to take on a wretch, who had meditated a deed of fuch atrocity against his peace; but Belgrave was not to be found. Scarcely, however, had Fitzalan returned to his half-distracted daughter, ere a letter was brought him from the wretch, in which he made the most degrading proposals, and bid Fitzalan beware how he answered them, as his situation had put him entirely into his power. The state of

This was a fatal truth: Fitzalan had been tempted to make a large addition to his farm, from an idea of turning the little money he possessed, to advantage; but he was more ignorant of agriculture than he had imagined; and this ignorance, joined to his own integrity of heart, rendered him the dupe of some designing wretches in his neighbour-hood; his whole stock dwindled away in unprofitable

table experiments, and he was now considerably in arrears with Belgrave.

The ungenerous advantage he strove to take of his situation, increased, if possible, his indignation; and again he sought him, but still without success.

Belgrave foon found no temptation of prosperity would prevail on the father or daughter to accede to his wishes; he therefore resolved to try, whether the pressure of adversity would render them more complying, and left the country, having first ordered his steward to proceed directly against Fitzalan.

The consequence of this order was an immediate execution on his effects; and, but for the assistance of a good-natured farmer, he would have been arrested. By his means, and under favor of night, he and Amanda set out for London; they arrived there in safety, and retired to obscure lodgings. In this hour of distress, Fitzalan conquered all salse pride, and wrote to Lord Cherbury, entreating him to procure some employment, which would relieve his present distressing situation: he cautiously concealed every thing relative to Belgrave; he could not bear that it should be known he had ever been degraded by his infamous proposals.

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Oscar's safety too, he knew, depended on his secresy; as he was well convinced, no idea of danger, or elevation of rank, would secure the wretch from his sury, who had meditated so great an injury against his sister.

He had the mortification of having the letter, he sent to Lord Cherbury, returned, as his Lordship was then absent from town; nor was he expected for some months, having gone on an excursion of pleasure to France. Some of these months had lingered away in all the horrors of anxiety and distress, when Fitzalan formed the resolution of sending Amanda into Wales, whose health had considerably suffered from the complicated uneasiness and terror she experienced on her own and her father's account.

Belgrave had traced the fugitives; and tho' Fitzalan was guarded against all the stratagems he used to have him arrested, he found means to have letters conveyed to Amanda, sull of base solicitations, and insolent declarations; that the rigor he treated her father with, was quite against his feelings, and should instantly be withdrawn, if he acceded to the proposals he made for her.

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But though Fitzalan had determined to fend Amanda into Wales, with whom could he trust his heart's best treasure? At last the son of the worthy worthy farmer, who had affifted him in his journey to London, occurred to his remembrance : he came often to town, and always called upon Fitzalan. The young man, the moment it was proposed, expressed the greatest readiness to attend Miss Fitzalan. As every precaution was necesfary, her father made her take the name of Dunford, and travel in the mail-coach, for the greater security. He divided the contents of his purse with her; and recommending this lovely and most beloved child to the protection of heaven, faw her depart with mingled pain and pleasure, promising to give her the earliest intelligence of Lord Cherhury's arrival in town, which he supposed would fix his future destiny. Previous to her departure he wrote to the Edwins, informing them of her intended vifit, and also her change of name for the present. This latter circumstance, which was not fatisfactorily accounted for excited their warmest curiosity; and not thinking it proper to: alk Amanda to gratify it, they, to use their own. words, fifted her companion, who hefitated not to. inform them of the indignities she had suffered from Col. Belgrave, which were well known about his neighbourh ood. selferell verce a cur

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CHAP. III.

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Thy grave——— shall with fresh flow'rs be dreft.

And the green turf lie lightly on thy breast;

There shall the morn her earliest tears bestow,

There the first roses of the year shall blow.

POPE.

A GENTLE noise in her chamber roused Amanda from a light refreshing slumber, and she beheld her nurse standing by her bed-side, with a bowl of goat's whey: Amanda took the salubrious draught with a smile, and instantly starting up, was dressed in a few minutes. She selt more composed than she had done for some time past: the transition from a narrow dark street to a fine open country, would have excited a lively transport in her mind, but for the idea of her father still remaining in the gloomy situation she had quitted.

On going out, she found the family all busily employed: Edwin and his sons were mowing in a meadow near the house; the nurse was churning; Ellen washing milk-pails by the stream in the valley; and Betsey turning a cake for her breakfast.

The tea-table was laid by a window, through which a woodbine crept, diffusing a delightful fragrance; the bees seasted on its sweetness, and the gaudy butterslies sluttered around it; the refulgent sun gladdened the face of nature; the morning breeze tempered its heat, and bore upon its dewy wings the sweets of opening slowers; birds carolled their matins almost on every spray; and scattered peasants, busied in their various labours, enlivened the extensive prospect.

Amanda was delighted with all she saw, and wrote to her father, that his presence was only wanting to complete her pleasure. The young man who had attended her, on receiving her letter, set out for the village from whence he was to return in a stage-coach to London.

The morning was passed by Amanda in arranging her little affairs, walking about the cottage, and conversing with her nurse relative to past times and present avocations. When the hour for dinner came, by her desire it was carried out into

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the little recess in the garden, where the balmy air, the lovely scene which surrounded her, rendered it doubly delicious.

In the evening she asked Ellen to take a walk with her, to which she joyfully consented. "And pray, Miss," said Ellen, after she had smartened herself with a clean white apron, her Sunday cap, and a hat loaded with poppy-coloured ribbons, smiling as she spoke at the pretty image her glass reslected, "where shall we go?"

"To the church-yard," replied Amanda. "Oh Lord, Miss," aried Ellen, "won't that be rather a dismal place to go to?" "Indulge me, my dear Ellen," said Amanda, "in shewing me the way thither: there is one spot in it, my heart longs to visit." The church-yard lay at the entrance of the little village; the church was a small structure, whose gothic appearance proclaimed its ancient date; it was rendered more venerable by the losty elms and yews which surrounded it, apparently coeval with itself, and which cast dark shades upon the spots, where the "rude foresathers of the hamlet slept," which

With uncouth rhymes, and shapeless sculpture deck'd,.
Implor'd the passing tribute of a figh.

one administration of the original few figures in the

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And it was a tribute Amanda paid, as she proceeded to the grave of Lady Malvina, which Ellen pointed out: it was o'er-grown with grass, and the flag, which bore her name, green, from time and damp. Amanda involuntarily funk on her knees, and kiffed the hallowed earth: her eyes caught the melancholy infeription, "Sweet spirit," she said, " heaven now rewards your sufferings. Oh! my mother, if departed spirits are e'er allowed to review this world, with love ineffable you may now be regarding your child. Oh! if the is doomed to tread a path as thorny as the one you trod, may the same sweetness and patience that distinguished you, support her thro' it: with the fame pious awe, the fame meek fubmiffion, may she bow to the defignations of her Creator."

The affecting apostrophe drew tears from the tender-hearted Ellen, who befought her not to continue longer in such a dismal place. Amanda now rose weeping; her spirits were entirely overcome; the busy objects of day had amused her mind, and prevented it from meditating on its sorrows; but in the calm solitude of the evening they gradually revived in her remembrance. Her sather's ill health, she seared, would still increase for want of her tender attentions; and when she thought of his distress, his consinement, his dejection, she selt agony at their separation.

Her melancholy was noticed at the cottage: Ellen informed the nurse of the dismal walk they had taken, which at once accounted for it; and the good woman exerted herself to enliven her dear child; but Amanda, tho' she faintly smiled, was not to be cheered, and soon retired to bed—pale, languid, and unhappy.

Returning light, in some degree, dispelled her melancholy; she felt, however, for the first time, that her hours would hang heavy on her hands, deprived as she was of those delightful resources, which had hitherto diversified them. To pass her time in listless inaction, or idle saunters about the house, was insupportable; and besides she sound her presence in the morning was a restraint on her humble friends, who did not deem it good manners to work before her; and to them, who, like the bees, were obliged to lay up their wintry hoard in summer, the loss of time was irreparable.

In the distraction of her father's affairs she had lost her books, implements for drawing, and mufical instruments; and in the cottage she could only find a bible, family prayer book, and a torn volume of old ballads.

"Tear heart, now I think on't," faid the nurse, "you may go to the library at Tudor-Hall, where there are books enough to keep you a-going,

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if you lived to the age of Methusalem himself, and very pretty reading to be fure amongst them, or our Parson Howell would not have been going there, as often as he did, to fludy, till he got a library of his own. The family are all away; and as the door is opened every fine day to air the. room, you will not be noticed by nopoty going into it; the' for that matter poor old Mrs. Abergwilly would make you welcome enough, if you promised to take none of the books away with you. But as I know you to be a little bashful or so, I will, if you chuse, step over, and ask her leave for you to go." " If you please," said Amanda, " I should not like to go without it." "Well, I shan't be long," continued the nurse, and Ellen shall flew you the way to-day; it will be a pretty pit of a walk for you to take every morning." The nurse was as good as her word; the returned foon, with Mrs. Abergwilly's permission for Amanda to read in the library whenever the pleafed. In consequence of this she immediately proceeded to the Hall, whose white turrets were seen from the cottage: it was a large and antique building, embofomed in a grove; the library was on the ground floor, and entered by a spacious folding door. As foon as the had reached it, Ellen left her, and returned to the cottage; and Amanda began with pleasure

pleasure to examine the apartment, whose elegand and simplicity struck her with immediate admiration.

On one fide was a row of large windows arched quite in the gothic stile; opposite to them were corresponding arches, in whose recesses the book-cases were placed; round these arches were festoons of laurel, elegantly executed in stucco work, and above them medallions of fome of the most celebrated poets; the chimney-piece, of the finest Italian marble, was beautifully inlaid and ornamented; the paintings on the cieling were all highly finished, and of the allegorical kind; and it was difficult to determine, whether the taste that defigned, or the hand that executed them, merited most praise; upon marble pedestals stood a celestial and terrestial globe, and one recess was entirely hung with maps. It was a room, from it fituation and appearance, peculiarly adapted for study and contemplation; all around was solitude and filence, fave the foft ruftling of the trees, whose dark foliage cast a solemn shade upon the windows. Opposite the entrance was another folding door, which being a little opened, Amanda could not refift the defire the felt, of feeing what was beyond it; she entered a large vaulted apartment, whose airy lightness formed a pleasing contraft traft to the gloomy one she had left: the manner in which it was fitted up, and the musical instruments, declared this to be a music room. It was hung with pale green damask, spotted with silver, and bordered with seftoons of roses, intermingled with light silver sprays; the seats corresponded to the hangings; the tables were of fine inlaid wood; and superb lustres were suspended from the cieling, which represented, in a masterly stile, scenes from some of the pastoral poets; the orchestra, about the center of the room, was inclosed with a light ballustrading of white marble, elevated by a few steps.

The windows of this room commanded a pleafing prospect of a deep romantic dale; the hills, throwhich it wound, displaying a beautiful diversity of woody scenery, interspersed with green pastures and barren points of rocks: a fine fall of water fell from one of the highest of the hills, which, broken by intervening roots and branches of trees, run a hundred different ways, sparkling in the sun beams as they emerged from the shade.

Amanda stood long at a window, enjoying this delightful prospect, and admiring the taste which had chosen this room for amusement; thus at once gratifying the eye and ear. On looking over the instruments, she saw a piano forte unlocked; she gently

gently raised the lid, and touching the keys, sound them in tolerable order. Amanda adored music; her genius for it was great, and had received every advantage her father could possibly give it: in cultivating it he had laid up a fund of delight for himself, for "his soul was a stream, that slowed at pleasant sounds."

Amanda could not resist the present opportunity of gratifying her favorite inclination. "Harmony and I," cried she, "have long been strangers to each other." She sat down, and played a little tender air: those her father loved, recurred to recollection, and she played a few of them with even more than usual elegance. "Ah dear and valued object," she mournfully sighed, "why are you not here to share my pleasure?" She wiped aways starting tear of tender remembrance, and began a little simple air.

Ah gentle Hope, shall I no more.
Thy cheerful influence share?
Oh must I still thy loss deplore,
And be the slave of care?

The gloom which now obscures my days,
At thy approach would fly,
And glowing fancy should display.
A bright unclouded sky.

Night's

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Night's dreary shadows sleet away, Before the orient beam, So forrow melts before thy sway, Thou nymph of cheerful mien.

Ah feek again my lonely breaft,
Distodge each painful fear,
Be once again my heavenly guest,
And stay each falling tear.

Amanda faw a number of music books lying about; fhe examined a few, and found they contained compositions of some of the most eminent masters. They tempted her to continue a little longer at the instrument: when she rose from it, the returned to the library, and began looking over the books, which she found a collection of the best, that past or present times had produced. She soon felected one for perufal, and feated herfelf in the recess of a window, that she might enjoy the cool breeze, which fighed amongst the trees. Here, delighted with her employment, the forgot the progress of time, nor thought of moving, till Ellen appeared with a request from the nurse, for her immediate return, as her dinner was ready, and the was uneasy at her fasting so long. Amanda did not hefitate to comply with the request; but fhe

the Hall, which contained such pleasing sources of amusement: she also settled in her own mind, often to ramble amidst its shades, which were perfectly adapted to her taste. These resolutions she put in practice; and a week passed in this manner, during which she heard from her father, who informed her, that, suspecting the woman with whom he lodged, to be in Colonel Belgrave's interest, he proposed changing his abode; he desired her therefore not to write, till she heard from him again, and added, Lord Cherbury was daily expected.

CHAP. IV.

Mine eyes were half-closed in sleep. Soft music came to nine ear: it was like the rising breeze, that whirls, at first, he thistle's beard, then slies, dark, shadowy, over the grass.

OSSIAN.

MANDA went every morning to the Hall, where she alternately played and read: in he evening she again returned to it; but, instead is staying in the library, generally took a book som thence, and read at the root of some old mossovered tree, delighted to hear its branches gently ustling over head, and myriads of summer slies suzzing in the sunny ray, from which she was heltered. When she could no longer see to read, he deposited her book in the place she had taken it tom, and rambled to the deepest recesses of the grove:

grove: this was the time, she loved to saunter carelessly along, while all the jarring passions that obtruding care excited, were hushed to peace by the solemnity and silence of the hour, and her soul felt at once composed and elevated: this was the time, she loved to think on day's departed, and sketch those scenes of felicity, which, she trusted, the days to come would realize. Sometimes she gave way to all the enthusiasm of a young and romantic sancy, and pictured to herself the time, when the shades she wandered beneath, were

The scenes, where ancient bards th'inspiring breath;
Extatic felt, and, from this world retir'd,
Convers'd with angels, and immortal forms,
On gracious errands bent; to save the fall
Of virtue struggling on the brink of vice.

THOMSON.

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Her health gradually grew better, as the tranquillity of her mind increased: a faint blush again began to tinge her cheek, and her lovely eyes beamed a placid lustre, thro' their long silker lashes.

She returned one evening from her usual ramble, with one of those unaccountable depressions on her spirits, to which, in a greater or leffer degree, almost every one is subject. When she retired to bed, her fleeping thoughts took the tincture of her waking ones, and images of the most affecting nature arose in her mind: she went thro' the whole story of her mother's sufferings, and fuddenly dreamt she beheld her expiring under the greatest torture; and that, while she wept her fate, the clouds opened, and discovered her adorned with feraphic beauty, bending with a benignant look towards her child, as if to affure her of her present happiness. From this dream Amanda was roused, by the softest, sweetest strains of music the had ever heard: the started with amazement: the opened her eyes, and faw a light around her, far exceeding that of twilight. Her dream had made a deep impression on her, and a solemn awe diffused itself over her mind: she trembled univerfally; but foon did the emotion of awe give way to that of furprise, when she heard on the outside of the window the following lines from Cowley, fung in a manly and exquisitely melodious voice, the music which woke her being only a symphony to them. source with call and a little

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Awake,

Awake, awake, my lyre,
And tell thy filent mafter's humble tale,
In founds that may prevail,
Sounds that gentle thoughts infpire,
Tho' so exalted she,
And I so lowly be,
Tell her such different notes make all thy harmony.

Hark, how the strings awake,
And the the moving hand approach not near,
Themselves with aweful fear,
A kind of num'rous trembling make.
Now all thy forces try,
Now all thy charms apply,
Revenge upon her ear the conquest of her eye.

Weak lyre, thy virtue fure

Is useless here, since thou art only found.

To cure, but not to wound,

And she to wound, but not to cure.

Too weak to, wilt thou prove

My passion to remove

Physick to other ills, thou'rt nourishment to love.

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Sleep, fleep again, my lyre,
For thou can'ft never tell my humble tale,
In founds that will prevail,
Nor gentle thoughts in her inspire.
All thy vain mirth lay by,
Bid thy strings filent lie,
Sleep, sleep again, my lyre, and let thy master die.

Ere the voice ceased, Amanda had quite shaken off the effects of her dream; and when all again was filent, the drew back the curtain, and faw it was the moon, then at the full, which, beaming thro' the callico window curtains, cast such a light around her. The remainder of the night was passed in ruminating on this strange incident: it was evident the serenade was addressed to her but she had not seen any one since her arrival in the neighbourhood, from whom fhe could have expected fuch a compliment, or, indeed, believed capable of paying it; that the person who paid it, was one of no mean accomplishments, from his performance the could not doubt. She refolved to conceal the incident, but to make such inquiries the next morning, as might possibly lead to a discovery. From the answers those inquiries received, the clergyman was the only person, whom with any degree of probability, the could fix on: the had E. 2 never

never feen him, and was at a loss to conceive how he knew any thing of her, till it occurred, he might have feen her going to Tudor Hall, or rambling about it.

From the moment this idea arose, Amanda deemed it imprudent to go to the Hall; yet, so great was the pleasure she experienced there, she could not think of relinquishing it, without the greatest reluctance. She at last considered, if she had a companion, it would remove any appearance of impropriety: Ellen was generally employed at knitting; Amanda therefore saw, that going to the Hall could not interfere with her employment, and accordingly asked her attendance thither, which the other joyfully agreed to.

"While you look over the books," faid Ellen, as they entered the library, "I will just step away, about a little business." "I beg you may not be long absent," cried Amanda. Ellen assured her she would not, and slew off directly. She had in truth seen, in an inclosure near the Hall, Tim Chip the carpenter, at work, who was the rural Adonis of these shades: he had long selected Ellen for the fair nymph of his affection; which distinction excited not a little jealousy among the village girls, and considerably increased the vanity of Ellen, who triumphed in a conquest, that at once gratified

gratified her love, and exalted her above her companions.

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Amanda entered the music room: the melodious strains she had heard the preceding night, dwelt upon her memory, and she sat down to the piano, and attempted them; her ear foon informed her, the attempt was successful; and her voice, (as the words were familiar to her) then accompanied the instrument. "Heavenly founds!" exclaimed some one behind her, as she concluded finging. Amanda started in terror and confusion from the chair, and beheld a tall and elegant young man standing by it. "Good heaven!" cried she, blushing, and hastily moving to the door, scarcely knowing what she said, "where can Ellen be?" "And do you think," faid the stranger, springing forward, and intercepting her passage, " I shall let you escape in this manner? No: really, my charming girl, I should be the most insensible of beings, if I did not avail myfelf of the happy opportunity chance afforded, of entreating leave to be introduced to you." As he spoke, he gently seized her hand, and carried it to his lips. "Be affured, Sir," faid 'Amanda, " the chance, as you call it, which brought us together, is to me most unpleasant, as I fear it has exposed me to greater freedom, than I have been accustomed to."

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"And is it possible," faid he, "you really feel an emotion of anger? Well, I will relinquish my lovely captive, if she condescendingly promises to continue here a few minutes longer, and grants me permission to attend her home."

"I infift on being immediately released," exclaimed Amanda. "I obey," cried he, softly pressing her hand, and then resigning it—" you are free, would to heaven I could say the same."

Amanda hurried to the Grove; but in her confusion took a wrong path, and vainly cast her eyes around in fearch of Ellen. The stranger followed, and his eyes wandered with her's in every direction they took. "And why," cried he, " fo unpropitious to my wish of introduction? A wish, it was impossible not to feel from the moment you were feen." Amenda made no reply, but full hurried on; her fatigue and agitation were foos too much for her present weak fate of health; and quite overpowered, the was at last compelled to stop, and lean against a tree for support. Exercife had diffused its softest bloom over her check; her hair fluttered in the breeze, that played around her; and her eyes, with the beautiful embarraffment of modesty, were bent to the ground, to avoid the ftranger's ardent gaze: he watched her with looks of the most impassioned admiration, and

and softly exclaimed, as if the involuntary exclama-

Fatigue has made you ill," he faid, " and 'tis your hafte to avoid me, has occasioned this diforder. Could you look into my heart, you would then find there was no reason to fly me: the emotions that lovely face excites in a soul of sensibility, could never be inimical to your safety."

At this moment Amanda perceived Ellen leaping over a stile: she had at last lest Mr. Chip, after promising to meet him in the evening at a cottage, where the blind harper was to attend to give
them a dance. She ran forward; but, on seeing
the stronger, started back in the utmost amazement. "Bless me," said Amanda, "I thought
you would never come."

"You go then," faid the stranger, " and give me no hope of a second interview. Oh say," takeing her hand, "will you not allow me to wait upon you. " It is utterly impossible," replied Amanda, " and I shall be quite distressed, if longer detained."

"See then," faid he, opening a gate, which led from the grove into the road, "how like a courte-ous knight I release you from painful captivity. But think not, thou beautiful the cruel fair one," be continued gaily, "I shall refign my hopes of yet conquering thy obduracy."

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"Oh Lort!" cried Ellen, as they quitted the grove, "how did you meet Lord Mortimer?" "Lord Mortimer?" repeated Amanda. "Yes, himself, inteed," said Ellen, "and I think in all my porn days I was never more surprised, than when I saw him with you, looking so soft, and so sweet upon you: to be sure, he is a beautiful man; and besides that, the young Lort of Tudor Hall." Amanda's spirits were greatly sturried, when she heard he was the master of the mansion, where he had found her seated with as much composure, as if possessor possessor.

As they were entering the cottage, Ellen, twitching Amanda's fleeve, cried, "look, look." Amanda haftily turning round, perceived Lord Mortimer, who had flowly followed them half way down the lane; on being observed, he smiled, and kissing his hand, retired.

Nurse was quite delighted at her child being seen by Lord Mortimer, (which Ellen informed her of): her beauty, she was convinced, had excited his warmest admiration; and admiration might lead, (she did not doubt) to something more important. Amanda's heart sluttered with an agreeable sensation, as Ellen described to her mother the tender looks, with which Lord Mortimer regarded her. She was at first inclined to believe, that

that in his Lordship she had found the person, whose melody so agreeably disturbed her slumbers; but a minute's reflection convinced her, this belief must be erroneous: it was evident, (or she would have heard of it) that Lord Mortimer had only arrived that day at Tudor Hall; and even had he feen her before, upon consideration she thought it improbable, that he should have taken the trouble of coming in such a manner to a person, in a station, to all appearance, so infinitely beneath his. own. Yes it was plain, chance alone had led him. to the apartment where she sat; and the commonplace gallantry, fashionable men are accustomed to. had dictated the language he addressed to her. half fighed, as the fettled the matter thus in her mind, and again fixed on the curate as the ferenader. Well, the was determined, if ever he came in her way, and dropped a hint of an attachment, she would immediately crush any hopes he might have the vanity to entertain.

CHAP. V.

The bloffoms op'ning to the day,
The dews of heav'n refin'd,
Could nought of purity display,
Toemulate his mind.

GOLDSMITH.

company her in a walk: for Ellen, (drest in all her rural finery) had gone early in the evening to the dance. But Amanda did not begin her walk with her usual alacrity; her bonnet was so heavy, and then it made her look so ill, that she could not go out, till she had made some alterations in it; still it would not do; a hat was tried on; she liked it better, and at last set out; but not as usual did she pause, whenever a new or lovely feature in the landscape struck her view, to express

press her admiration: she was often, indeed, so absorbed in thought, as to start when Betsey addreffed-her, which was often the case; for little Betfey delighted to have Miss Amanda trace figures for her in the clouds, and affift her in gathering wild flowers. Scarcely knowing which way they went, Amanda rambled to the village; and feeling herself fatigued, turned into the churchyard to rest upon one of the raised slags.

The graves were ornamented with garlands of cut paper, interwoven with flowers; tributes of love from the village maids to the memory of their. departed friends.

As Amanda rested herself, she twined a garland of the wild flowers the had gathered with Betfey, and hung it over the grave of Lady Malvina: her fine eyes raifed to heaven, as if invoking at the moment the spirit of her mother, to regard the vernal offering of her child; while her white hands were folded on her heart, and the foftly exclaimed. " alas, is this the only tribute left for me to pay !"

A low murmur, as if from voices near, startled her at the instant; she turned with quickness, and! faw Lord Mortimer, with a young clergyman, half hid by fome trees, attentively observing her. Blushing and confused, she drew her hat over her face,

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face, and catching Betfey's hand, hastened to the cottage.

Lord Mortimer had wandered about the skirts of the cottage, in hopes of meeting her in the evening: on seeing the direction she had taken from it, he followed her; and just as she entered the church yard, unexpectedly met the curate. His company, at a moment so propitious for joining Amanda, he could well have dispensed with; for he was more anxious than he chose to acknowledge to himself, to become acquainted with her.

Lord Mortimer was now in the glowing prime of life: his person was strikingly elegant, and his manners infinuatingly pleafing; feducing fweetness dwelt in his fmile, and, as he pleafed, his expreffive eyes could fparkle with intelligence, or beam with fenfibility; and to the eloquence of his language, the harmony of his voice imparted a charm, that feldom failed of being irrefiftible; his foul was naturally the feat of every virtue; but an elevated rank, and splendid fortune, had placed him in a situation fomewhat inimical to their interests, for he had not always frrength to relift the ftrong temptations which furrounded him; but tho' he fometimes wandered from the boundaries of virtue, he had never yet entered upon the confines of vice, never really injured innocence, or done a deed which

which could wound the bosom of a friend; his heart was alive to every noble propensity of nature; compassion was one of its strongest feelings, and never did his hand refuse obedience to the generous impulse. Among the various accomplishments he possessed, was an exquisite taste for music, which, with every other talent, had been cultivated to the highest degree of possible perfection; his spending many years abroad had given him every requisite advantage for improving it. The soft, melodious voice of Amanda would of itself almost have made a conquest of his heart; but aided by the charms of her face and person, altogether were irresissible.

He had come into Wales, on purpose to pay a visit to an old friend in the life of Anglesey: he did not mean to stop at Tudor Hall; but within a sew miles of it the phaeton, in which he travelled, (from the sineness of the weather) was overturned, and he severely hurt. He procured a hired carriage, and proceeded to the Hall, to put himself into the hands of the good old house-keeper, Mrs. Abergwilly; who, possessing as great a stock of medical knowledge as Lady Bountiful herself, he believed would cure his bruises with as much, or rather more expedition, than any country surseon whatever. He gave strict orders, that his being

being at the Hall should not be mentioned, as he did not chuse the few days, he hoped and believed he should continue there, to be disturbed by visits, which he knew would be paid, if an intimation of his being there was received. From an apartment adjoining the music room he had discovered Amanda; tho' scarcely able to move, at the first found of her voice he stole to the door, which being a little open, gave him an opportunity of feeing her perfectly; and nothing but his fituation prevented his immediately appearing before her, and expressing the admiration she had inspired him with. As foon as the departed, he fent for the housekeeper, to inquire who the beautiful stranger was. Mrs. Abergwilly only knew the was a young lady lately come from London, to lodge at David Edwin's cottage, whose wife had entreated permission for her to read in the library, which, she added, she had given, seeing that his Lordship read in his dreffing-room; but, if he pleafed, the would fend Miss Dunford word not to come again. "By no means," his Lordship said. Amanda therefore continued his vifits as ufual, little thinking with what critical regard and fond admiration the was observed. Lord Mortimer daily grew better; but the purpose for which he had come into Wales, feemed utterly forgotten; he had a. tincture

tincture of romance in his disposition, and availed himself of his recovery to gratify it, by taking a lute, and serenading his lovely cottage girl. He could no longer restrain his impatience to be known to her; and the next day stealing from his retirement, surprised her as already related.

As he could not, without an utter violation of good manners, shake off Howell, he contented himself with following Amanda into the church-yard, where, shaded by the trees, he and his companion stood watching her unnoticed, till an involuntary exclamation of rapture from his Lordship discovered their situation. When she departed, he read the inscription on the tomb-stone; but, from the difference of names, this gave no insight into any connexion between her and the perfon it mentioned: Howell could give no information of either; he was but a young man, lately appointed to the parsonage, and had never seen. Amanda till that evening.

Lord Mortimer was folicitous, even to a degree of anxiety, to learn the real fituation of Amanda: as Howell, in his pastoral function, had free access to the houses of his parishioners, it occurred to him, that he would be an excellent person to discover it; he therefore, as if from curiosity alone, expressed his wish of knowing who she was, and requested.

requested Howell, if convenient, to follow her directly to Edwin's cottage, (where, he said, by chance, he heard she lodged) and endeavour to find out from the good people every thing about her. This request Howell readily complied with; the sace, the sigure, the melancholy, and above all the employment of Amanda, had interested his sensibility, and excited his curiosity.

He arrived foon after her at the cottage, and found her laughing at her nurse, who was telling her, she was certain she should see her a great laty. Amanda rose to retire at his entrance; but he perceiving her intention, declared, if he disturbed her, he would immediately depart: she accordingly refeated herself, secretly pleased at doing so, as she thought, either from some look or word of the curate's, she might discover, if he really was the person who had serenaded her; from this idea she shewed no averseness to enter into conversation with him.

The whole family, nurse excepted, had followed Ellen to the dance; and that good woman thought she could do no less for the honor of Howell's visit, than prepare a little comfortable supper for him. The benevolence of his disposition, and innocent gaiety of his temper, had rendered him a great favorite amongst his rustic neighbours, whom he frequently amused with simple ballads and pleasant tales.

tales. Amanda and he were left tete a tete, while the nurse was busied in preparing her entertainment; and fhe was foon as much pleafed with the elegance and fimplicity of his manners, as he was with the innocence and fweetness of her's. The objects about them naturally led to rural subjects, and from them to what might almost be termed a differtation on poetry: this was a theme peculiarly agreeable to Howell, who wooed the penfive muse, beneath the fylvan shade; nor was it less so to Amanda; she was a zealous worshipper of the Muses, tho' diffidence made her conceal her invocations to them. She was led to point out the beauties of her favorite authors; and the foft fenfibility of her voice raised a kind of tender enthufiafm in Howell's foul: he gazed and liftened, as if his eye could never be fatisfied with feeing, or his ear with hearing. At his particular request Amanda recited the pathetic description of the curate and his lovely daughter, from the Deferted Village; a tear stole down her cheek, as she proceeded. Howell foftly laid his hand on her's, and exclaimed, "Good heavens, what an angel."

"Come, come," faid Amanda, finiling at the energy with which he spoke, "you, at least, should have nothing to do with flattery."

doug founds limb into his heart; he formed his

" Flattery?

"Flattery!" repeated he emphatically, "Oh heavens, did you but know my fincerity."

"Well, well," cried the, withing to change the subject, "utter no expression in suture, which shall make me doubt it."

"To flatter you," faid he, " would be impossible: since the highest eulogium must be inadequate to your merits."

" Again!" faid Amanda.

"Believe me," he replied, "flattery is a meanness I abhor; the expressions you denominate as such, proceed from emotions, I should contemn myself for want of sensibility, if I did not experience."———

The nurse's duck and green peas were now set upon the table, but in vain did she press Howell to eat; his eyes were too well seasted, to allow him to attend to his palate. Finding her entreaties inessectual in one respect, she tried them in another, and begged he would sing a savorite old ballad; this he at sirst bestrated to do, till Amanda, (from a secret motive of her own) joined in the entreaty; and the moment she heard his voice, she was convinced he was not the person, who had been at the out-side of her window. After his complaisance to her, she could not resuse him one song: the melodious sounds sunk into his heart; he seemed fascinated

nated to the spot, nor thought of moving, till the nurse gave him a hint for that purpose, being afraid of Amanda's fitting up too late.

He fighed as he entered his humble dwelling; it was perhaps the first sigh he had ever heaved for the narrowness of his fortune. "Yet," cried he, casting his eyes around, "in this abode, low and humble as it is, a soul like Amanda's might enjoy selicity."

The purpose for which Lord Mortimer sent him to the cottage, and Lord Mortimer himself, were forgotten. His Lordship had engaged Howell to sup with him, after the performance of his embassy, and impatiently waited his arrival: he felt displeased, as the hours wore away without bringing him; and unable at last to restrain the impetuosity of his feelings, proceeded to the parsonage, which he entered a sew minutes after Howell. He asked, with no great complacency, the reason he had not fulfilled his engagement. Absorbed in one idea, Howell selt consused, agitated, and unable to frame any excuse; he therefore simply said, what in reality was true, that he had utterly forgotten it.

"I suppose then," exclaimed Lord Mortimer, in a ruffled voice, " you have been very agree-ably entertained."

" Delight-

" Delightfully," faid Howell.

Lord Mortimer grew more displeased; but his anger was now levelled against himself as well as Howell. He repented and regretted the folly which had thrown Howell in the way of such temptation, and had perhaps raised a rival to himself.

"Well," cried he, after a few hafty paces about the room, "and pray what do you know about Mis Dunford!"

"About her?" repeated Howell, as if starting from a reverie—" why—nothing."

" Nothing!" re-echoed his Lordship.

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"No," replied Howell, "except that the is an angel."

Lord Mortimer was now thoroughly convinced, all was over with the poor parson; and resolved, in consequence of this conviction, to lose no time himself. He could not depart, without inquiring how the evening had been spent, and envied Howell the happy minutes he so eloquently described.

CHAP, VI.

Thy graceful footsteps; hither, gentle maid,
Incline thy polish'd forehead. Let thy eyes
Effuse the mildness of their azure dawn;
And may the fanning breezes wast aside
Thy radiant locks, disclosing, as it bends
With airy softness from the marb'e neck,
The cheek fair-blooming, and the rosy lip,
Where winning smiles and pleasure sweet as love
With sanctity and wisdom, temp'ring blend.
Their soft allurement.

AKENSIDE.

WHILE Amanda was at breakfast the next morning, Betsey brought a letter to her; expecting to hear from her father, she eagerly opened it, and to her great surprise perused the following lines:

TO MISS DUNFORD.

Lord Mortimer begs leave to assure Miss Dunford, he shall remain distatisfied with himself, till he has an opportunity of personally apologizing for his intrusion yesterday. If the sweetness of her disposition sulfils the promise her face has given of it, he slatters himself his pardon will speedily be accorded: yet never shall he think himself entirely forgiven, if her visits to the library are discontinued.

Happy and honored shall Lord Mortimer consider himself, if Tudor Hall contains any thing, which can amuse, or merit the attention of Miss Dunford.

July 17th.

"From Lord Mortimer!" faid Amanda, with involuntary emotion. "Well, this really has aftonished me.".

"Oh lort, my tear," cried the nurse in a rapture.

Amanda waved her hand to silence her, as the servant stood in the outside room. She called Betsey: "tell the servant," said she, ——

"Lort," cried the nurse softly, and twitching her sleeve, "write his Lortship a little pit of a note, just to let him see what a pretty scribe you are."

Amanda could not refrain smiling; but disengaging herself from the good woman, she arose, and going to the fervant, defired him to tell his Lord, she thanked him for his polite attention but that in future it would not be in her power to go to the library. When the returned to the room, the nurse bitterly lamented her not writing. " Great matters," the faid, " had often arifer from small beginnings." She could not conceive, why his Lortship should be treated in such a manner: it was not the way fhe had ever ferved her Edwin. Lort, the remembered, if the got but the scrawl of a pen from him, the used to fit up to answer it. Amanda tried to persuade her, it was neither necessary or proper for her to write. An hour passed in arguments between them, when two fervants came from Tudor Hall to the cottage, with a small book-case, which they sent into Amanda, and their Lord's compliments; that in a few minutes he would have the honor of paying his respects to her.

Amanda felt agitated by this meffage; but it was the agitation of involuntary pleasure. Her room was always perfectly neat, yet did the nurse and her two daughters now busy themselves with trying, if possible, to put it into nicer order: the garden was ransacked for the choicest flowers to ornament it; nor would they depart, till they saw Lord Mortimer approaching. Amanda, who had spened the book-case, then snatched up a book, to avoid.

avoid the appearance of fitting in expectation of his coming.

He entered with an air at once easy and respect. ful, and taking her hand, befought forgiveness for his intrusion the preceding day. Amanda blushed, and faltered out fomething of the confusion the had experienced from being so surprised: he refeated her, and drawing a chair close to her's, faid he had taken the liberty of fending her a few books to amuse her, till she again condescended to yisit the library, which he entreated her to do; promising that, if she pleased, both it and the musicroom should be facred to her alone. She thanked him for his politeness; but declared she must be excused from going. Lord Mortimer regarded her with a degree of tender admiration; an admiration, heightened by the contrast he drew in his mind, between her and the generality of fashionable women he had feen, whom he often fecretly. censured for facrificing too largely at the thrine of art and fashion. The pale and varied blush which mantled the cheek of Amanda, at once announced itself to be an involuntary suffusion; and her dress was only remarkable for its simplicity: the wore a plain robe of dimity, and an abbey cap of thin muslin, that shaded without concealing her face, and gave to it the foft expression of a Madona; her beautiful hair fell in long ringlets down her back, and curled upon her forehead. " Good

"Good heaven," cried Lord Mortimer, "how has your idea dwelt upon my mind fince last night: if in the morning I was charmed, in the evening I was enraptured. Your looks, your attitude, were then beyond all that imagination could conceive of loveliness and grace: you appeared as a being of another world, mourning over a kindred spirit. I selt

Awe-fruck, and as I passed, I worshipped.

Confused by the energy of his words, and the ardent glances he directed towards her, Amanda, scarcely knowing what she did, turned over the leaves of the book she still held in her hand: in doing so, she saw written on the title-page, the Earl of Cherbury. "Cherbury!" repeated she, in assonishment.

" Do you know him ?" asked Lord Mortimer.

"Not personally; but I revere, I esteem him: he is one of the best, the truest friends, my father ever had."

"Oh how happy," exclaimed Lord Mortimer,
would his fon be, were he capable of inspiring
with such sentiments as you avow for him."

"His fon !!" repeated Amanda, in a tone of furprife, and looking at Lord Mortimer.

YOL. I.

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" Yes,

"Yes," replied he. "Is it then possible," he continued, "that you are really ignorant of his being my father?"

Surprise kept her silent a few minutes; for her father had never given her any account of the Earl's family, till about the period he thought of applying to him; and her mind was so distracted at that time on his own account, that she scarcely understood a word he uttered. In the country she had never heard Lord Cherbury mentioned; for Tudor Hall belonged not to him, but to Lord Mortimer, to whom an uncle had bequeathed it.

"I thought indeed, my Lord," faid Amanda as foon as the recovered her voice, "that your Lordship's title was familiar to me: tho' why from the hurry and perplexity in which particular circumstances involved me, I could not tell."

"Oh suffer," cried Lord Mortimer, with one of his most infinuating smiles, " the friendship which our parents feel, to be continued to their children—let this," taking her soft hand, and pressing his lips to it, " be the pledge of amity between us." He now inquired, when the intimacy between her sather and his had commenced and where the former was; but from those inquiries Amanda shrunk. She resected, that without her sather's permission, she had no right to an sweet the same and the had no right to an sweet the same and the had no right to an sweet the same and shrunk.

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fwer them; and that, in a lituation like his and her's, too much caution could not be observed. Besides, both pride and delicacy made her solicitous at present to conceal her father's real situation from Lord Mortimer: fhe could not bear to think it should be known, his fole dependence was on Lord Cherbury, uncertain as it was, whether that nobleman would ever answer his expectations. She repented having ever dropt a hint of the intimacy subfifting between them, which surprise alone had made her do; and tried to wave the subject. In this design Lord Mortimer assisted her; for he had too much penetration, not infantly to perceive, it confused and diffressed her. He requested permission to renew his visit; but Amanda, tho' well inclined to grant his request, yielded to prudence instead of inclination, and begged he would excuse her: the seeming disparity, (fhe could not help faying) in their fituations would render it very imprudent in her to receive such visits; she blushed, half-sighed, and bent her eyes to the ground, as the spoke. Lord Mortimer continued to entreat, but the was steady in refusing; he would not depart however, till he had obtained permission to attend her in the evening to a part of Tudor Grove, which she had never yet feen, and he described as particularly beauti-F 2

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ful. He wanted to call for her at the appointed hour, but the would not suffer this; and he was compelled to be contented with leave to meet her near the cottage, when it came.

With a beating heart, the kept, her appointment, and found his Lordship not many yards distant from the cottage, impatiently waiting her approach. A brighter bloom than usual glowed upon her cheek, as the liftened to his ardent expressions of admiration: yet not to fuch expressions, which would foon have fated an ear of delicacy like Amanda's, did Lord Mortimer confine himfelf he conversed on various subjects; and the elequence of his language, the liveliness of his imagination, and the juttness of his remarks, equally amused and interested his fair companion. There was indeed, in the disposition and manners of Lord Mortimer, that happy mixture of animation and foftness, which at once amuses the fancy and attracts the heart; and never had Amanda experienced fuch minutes as the now passed with him; fo delightful in their progress, so rapid in their courfe. On entering the walk he had mentioned to her, she saw he had not exaggerated its beauties: after passing thro' many long and shaded alleys, they came to a smooth green lawn, about which the trees role in the form of an amphitheatre, and

proclaimed, that amongst them

The rude ax, with heaved froke,

Was never heard, the nymphs to daunt,

Or fright them from their hallow'd haunt.

Misself assess and he guienchianal M

-more arrivages one to that a subsequent MILTON.

The lawn gently floped to a winding fream, fo clear as perfectly to reflect the beautiful feenery of heaven, now glowing with the gold and purple of the fetting fun; from the opposite bank of the ftream role a stupendous mountain, diversified with little verdant hills and dales, and fkirted with a wild shrubbery, whose blossoms perfumed the air with the most balmy fragrance. Lord Mortimer prevailed on Amanda to fit down upon a ruftie bench, beneath the fpreading branches of an oak, enwreathed with ivy; here they had not fat long, ere the filence which reigned around, was. fuddenly interrupted by strains, at once low, folemn, and melodious, that feemed to creep along the water, till they had reached the place where they fat; and then, as if a Naiad of the stream had left her rushy couch to do them homage, they swelled by degrees into full melody, which the mountain echoes alternately revived and heightened.

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ened. It appeared like enchantment to Amanda and her eyes, turned to Lord Mortimer, feemed to fay, it was to his magic it was owing. After enjoying, her furprise some minutes, he acknowledged, the music proceeded from two fervants of his, who played on the clarinet and french horn, and were stationed in a dell of the opposite mountain. Notwithstanding all her former thoughts to the contrary, Amanda now conceived a ftrong fuspicion, that Lord Mortimer was really the perfon who had ferenaded her; that the conceived pleasure from the idea, is scarcely-necessary to fay; the had reason soon to find, she was not mistaken. Lord Mortimer solicited her for the lady's fong in Comus, faying the prefent fituation was peculiarly adapted to it : on her heftating he told her, the had no ples to offer for not complying, as he himfelf had beard her enchanting powers in it. Amanda started, and eagerly enquired, when or by what means. It was too late for his Lordship to recede; and he not only confelled his concealment near the mulic-room, but his visit to her window. A fost confusion, intermingled with pleasure, pervaded the foul of Amanda at this confession; and it was some time, ere the was fufficiently composed to comply with Lord Mortimer's folicitations for her to fing : the

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at last allowed him to lead her to the center of a little rustic bridge thrown over the stream, from whence her voice could be sufficiently distinguished for the music to keep time to it, as Lord Mortimer had directed. Her plaintive and harmonious invocation, answered by the low breathing of the clarinet, which appeared like the softest echo of the mountain, had the finest effect imaginable, and "took the imprison'd soul, and wrapt it in Elysium."

Lord Mortimer, for the first time in his life, found himself at a loss to express what he selt: he conducted her back to the seat, where, to her astonishment, she beheld fruits, ices, and creams, laid out, as if by the hand of magic, for no mortal appeared near the spot. Dusky twilight now warned her to return home; but Lord Mortimer would not suffer her to depart, till she had partaken of this collation.

He was not by any means satisfied with the ideaof only beholding her for an hour or two of an evening; and when they came near the cottage, desired
to know, whether it was to chance alone he was in
future to be indebted for seeing her. Again he
entreated permission to visit her sometimes of a
morning, promising he would never disturb her
avocations, but would be satisfied merely to sit

and read to her, whenever the chose to work, and felt herself inclined for that amusement: Amanda's refusals grew fainter, and at last she said, on the above mentioned conditions he might sometimes come. That he availed himself of this permission is scarcely necessary to say; and from this time few hours passed without their seeing each other.

The cold referve of Amanda by degrees wore away; from her knowledge of his family the confidered him as more than a new or common ac-The emotions the felt for him, the thought fanctioned by that knowledge, and the gratitude she felt for Lord Cherbury for his former conduct to her father, which claimed, she thought, her respect and esteem for so near and valuable a connexion of his; the worth too, the could not avoid acknowledging to herfelf, of Lord Mortimer, would, of itself alone, have authorized them. Her heart felt, he was one of the most amiable, most pleasing of men: she could scarcely disguise, in any degree, the lively pleafure fhe experienced in his fociety; nay, the fearcely thought it necessary to difguise it, for it resulted as much from innocence as fenfibility, and was placed to the account of friendship. But Lord Mortimer was too penetrating, not foon to perceive he might ascribe it to a softer impulse: with the most delicate

cate attention, the most tender regard, he daily, nay hourly, infinuated himself into her heart, and secured for himself an interest in it, ere she was aware, which the efforts of subsequent resolution could not overcome. He was the companion of her rambles, the alleviator of her griefs, the care which so often saddened her brow, always vanished at his presence, and in conversing with him she forgot every cause of forrow.

He once or twice delicately hinted at those circumstances, which at his first visit she had mentioned, as sufficiently distressing to bewilder her recollection: Amanda, with blushes, always shrunk from the subject, sickening at the idea of his knowing, that her father depended on his for suture support. If he ever addressed her seriously on the subject of the regard he professed for her, (which, from his attentions, she could not help sometimes stattering herself would be the case) then indeed there would be no longer room for concealment; but except such a circumstance took place, she could not bring herself to make any humiliating discovery.

Tudor Grove was the favorite scene of their rambles: sometimes she allowed him to lead her to the music-room; but as these visits were not frequent, a lute was brought from it to the cottage,

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and in the recess in the garden she often sung, and played for the enraptured Mortimer; there too he frequently read for her, always selecting some elegant and pathetic piece of poetry, to which the harmony of his voice gave additional charms; a voice, which sunk into the heart of Amanda, and interested her sensibility even more than the subject he perused.

Often straying to the valley's verge, as they contemplated the lovely prospect around, only bounded by distant and stupenduous mountains, Lord Mortimer, in strains of eloquence, would describe the beautiful scenes and extensive land-scapes beyond them; and whenever Amanda expressed a wish, (as she sometimes would from thoughtless innocence) of viewing them, he would softly sigh, and wish he was to be her guide to them, as to point out beauties to a refined and cultivated taste like her's, would be to him the greatest pleasure he could possibly experience.

Seated sometimes on the brow of a shrubby hill, as they viewed the scattered hamlets beneath, he would expatiate on the pleasure he conceived there must be, in passing a tranquil life with one lovely, and beloved object: his insidious eyes, turned towards Amanda, at these minutes, seemed to say, she was the being who could rea ize all the ideas

he entertained of fuch a life; and when he asked her opinion of his sentiments, her disordered blushes, and saltering accents, too plainly betrayed her conscious seelings. Every delicacy which Tudor Hall contained, was daily sent to the cottage, notwithstanding Amanda's prohibition to the contrary; and sometimes Lord Mortimer was permitted to dine with her in the recess. Three weeks spent in this familiar manner, endeared and attached them to each other, more than months would have done, passed in situations liable to interruption.

CHAP. VII.

Heard, felt, and seen, possesses every thought, Fills every sense, and pants in every vein.

Books are but formal dulness, tedious friends, And sad amid the social band he sits,

Lonely and unattentive. From his tongue

Th' unfinish'd period falls, while, borne away

On swelling thought, his wasted spirit slies

To the vain bosom of his distant fair.

THOMSON.

HOWELL was no stranger to the manner in which hours rolled away at the cottage; he hovered round it, and seized every interval of Lord Mortimer's absence, to present himself before Amanda; his emotions betrayed his feelings, and Amanda affected reserve towards him, in hopes of suppressing

suppressing his passion; a passion, she now began to think, when hopeless, must be dreadful.

Howell was a prey to melancholy; but not for himself alone did he mourn: fears for the safety and happiness of Amanda added to his dejection; he dreaded that Lord Mortimer perhaps, like too many of the sashionable men, might make no scruple of availing himself of any advantage, which could be derived from a predilection in his savor.

He knew him, 'tis true, to be amiable; but in apposition to that, he knew him to be volatile, and sometimes wild, and he trembled for the unsufpecting credulity of Amanda. "Tho' lost to me," exclaimed the unhappy young man, "oh never, sweetest Amanda, mayest thou be lost to thyself."

He had received many proofs of esteem and friendship from Lord Mortimer; he therefore studied, how he might admonish without offending, and save Amanda without injuring himself. It at ast occurred, that the pulpit would be the surest way of essecting his wishes, where the subject, addressed to all, might particularly strike the one for whom it was intended, without appearing as if besigned for that purpose; and timely convince him, if indeed he meditated any injurious design against Amanda, of its stagrance.

On the following Sunday, as he expected, Lord Mortimer and Amanda attended service; his Lordship's pew was opposite the one she sat in, and we fear his eyes too often wandered in that direction.

The youthful monitor at last ascended the pulpit: his text was from Jeremiah, and to the following effect.

"She weepeth fore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks; among all her lovers the hath none to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies."

After a flight introduction, in which he regretted, that the declention of moral principles demanded such an exhortation as he was about giving, he commenced his subject: he described a young female adorned with beauty and innocence, walking forward in the path of integrity, which a virtuous education had early marked for her to take, and rejoicing, as she went, with all around her; when in the midst of her happiness, unexpected calamity suddenly surprised, and precipitated her from prosperity into the deepest distress: he described the benefits she derived in this trying period, from early implanted virtue and religion; taught by them, (he proceeded) the lovely mourness

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turns not to the world for confolation-no, the looks up to her Creator for comfort, whose supporting aid is so particularly promised to afflicted worth. Cheered by them, the is able to exert the little talents of genius and tafte, and draw upon industry for her future support: her active virtue, the thinks the best proof of submission she can give to the will of heaven; and in these laudable exertions the finds a conscious peace, which the mere possession of fortune never could bestow. While thus employed, a fon of perfidy fees and marks her for his prey, because she is at once lovely and helpless: her unsuspecting credulity lays her open to his arts, and his blandishments by degrees allure her heart. The fnare which he has spread, at last involves her; with the inconstancy of libertinism he soon deserts her; and again is she plunged in diffress. But mark the difference of her first and second fall: conscience no longer lends its opposing aid to stem her forrow; despair, inflead of hope, arises; without one friend to sooth the pangs of death, one pitying foul to whisper peace to her departing spirit; insulted too, perhaps, by fome unfeeling being, whom want of fimilar temptations alone, perhaps, faved from fimilar imprudencies; she finks an early victim to wretchedness. Howell paused; the fullness of his heart

heart mounted to his eyes, which involuntarily turned, and rested upon Amanda: interested by his fimple and pathetic eloquence, she had rifen, and leaned over the pew, her head refting on her hand, and her eyes fastened on his face. Lord Mortimer had also risen, and alternately gazed upon Howell and Amanda, particularly watching the latter, to see how the subject would affect her He at last saw the tears trickling down her cheeks: the diffresses of her own situation, and the stratagems of Belgrave, made her, in some respect, perceive a refemblance between herfelf and the picture Howell had drawn. Lord Mortimer was unutterably affected by her tears, a faint fickishness feized him, he funk upon the feat, and covered his face with his handkerchief, to hide his emotion; but by the time fervice was over, it was pretty well diffipated: Amanda returned home, and his Lordship waited for Howell's coming out of church. "What the devil, Howell," faid he, " did you mean, by giving us fuch an exhortation? Have you discovered any little affair going on between fome of your ruftic neighbours?" The parson coloured, but remained filent; Lord Mortimer rallied him a little more, and then departed; but his gaiety was only affumed.

On his first acquaintance with Amanda, in consequence of what he heard from Mrs. Abergwilly, and observed himself, he had been tempted to think she was involved in mystery; and what but impropriety, he thought, could occasion mystery. To see so young, so lovely, so elegant a creature, an inmate of a fequestered cottage, affociating with people, (in manners at least) fo infinitely beneath her; to fee her trembling and blushing, if a word was dropt that feemed tending to inquire into her motives for retirement; all these circumstances, I fay, confidered, naturally excited a suspicion injurious to her, in the mind of Lord Mortimer; and he was tempted to think, some deviation from prudence had, (by depriving her of the favor of her friends) made her retire to obscurity; and that she would not diflike an opportunity of emerging from it, he could not help thinking. In consequence of these ideas, he could not think himfelf very culpable in encouraging the wishes her loveliness gave rife to: besides, he had some reafon to suspect, the defired to inspire him with these wishes; for Mrs. Abergwilly told him, she had informed Mrs. Edwin of his arrival; an information he could not doubt her having immediately communicated to Amanda; therefore her continuing to come to the Hall seemed as if she wished to throw

throw herself in his way. Mrs. Edwin had indeed been told of his arrival, but concealed it from Amanda, that she should not be disappointed of going to the Hall, which she knew, if once informed of it she would not go to.

'Tis true, Lord Mortimer faw Amanda wort (at least) the semblance of innocence; but this could not remove his suspicions; so often had he seen it assumed, to hide the artful stratagems of a deprayed heart.

Ah! why will the lovely female, adorned with all that heaven and earth can bestow, to render her amiable, o'er-leap the modesty of nature, and by levity and boldness lose all pretensions to the esteem, which would otherwise be her involuntary tribute.

Nor is it herself alone she injures; she hurts each child of purity, helps to point the sting of ridicule, and weave the web of art.

We shun the blazing sun, but court his tempered beams; the rose which glares upon the day, is never so much sought, as the bud enwrapt in the soliage; and, to use the expression of a late much-admired author, "the retiring graces have ever been reckoned the most beautiful."

He had never heard the Earl mention a person of the name of Dunford; and he knew not, or make

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ther suspected, little credit was to be given to her affertion of an intimacy between them, particularly as he saw her, whenever the subject was mentioned, shrinking from it in the greatest confusion.

Her reserve he imputed to pretence; and flattering himself it would soon wear off, determined, for the present at least, to humour her affectation.

With fuch ideas, fuch fentiments, had Lord Mortimer's first visits to Amanda commenced; but they experienced an immediate change, as the decreasing referve of her manners gave him greater and more frequent opportunities of discovering her mental perfections: the ftrength of her underflanding, the justness ofher remarks, the liveliness of her fancy, above all, the purity which mingled in every fentiment, and the modesty which accompanied every word, filled him with delight and amazement; his doubts gradually leffened, and at last vanished, and with them every design, which they alone had ever given rife to. Esteem was now united to love, and real respect to admiration: in her fociety he only was happy, and thought not, or rather would not suffer himself to think, on the confequences of fuch an attachment. It might be faid, he was entranced in pleasure, from which Howell completely roused him, and made him serioufly

tive to Amanda. Of fuch views as he perceived Howell suspected him of harbouring, his conscience entirely acquitted him; yet so great were the obstacles he knew in the way of an uinon between him and Amanda, that he almost regretted, (as every one does, who acts against their better judgment) that he had not fied at the first intimation of his danger. So truly formidable indeed did these obstacles appear, that he at times resolved to break with Amanda, if he could fix upon any plan for doing so, without injuring his honor, after the great attention he had paid her.

Ere he came to any final determination however, he resolved to try, and discover her real fituation: if he even left her, it would be a satisfaction to his heart, to know whether his friendship could be serviceable; and if an opposite measure was his plan, it never could be put in execution, without the desired information. He accordingly wrote to his sister, Lady Araminta Dormer, who was then in the country with Lord Cherbury, to request she would inquire from his father, whether he knew a person of the name of Dunford; and if he did, what his situation and samily were. Lord Mortimer begged her Ladyship not to mention the inquiries being dictated by him, and promised at some

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fome future period to explain the reason of them. He still continued his affiduities to Amanda, and at the expected time received an answer to his letter; but how was he shocked, and alarmed, when informed, Lord Cherbury never knew a person of the name of Dunford. His doubts began to revive; but before he yielded entirely to them, he resolved to go to Amanda, and inquire from her, in the most explicit terms, how, and at what time, her father and the Earl had become acquainted: determined, if the answered him without embarassment, to mention to his fifter whatever circumstances the related, left a forgetfulness of them had alone made the Earl deny his knowledge of Dunford. Just as he was quitting the Grove with this intent, he espied Edwin and his wife coming down a cross-road from the village, where they had been with poultry and vegetables: it instantly occurred to him, that these people, in the simplicity of their hearts, might unfold the real fituation of Amanda, and fave him the painful necessity of making inquiries, which the perhaps would not answer, without his real motives for making them were affigned, which was what he could not think of doing. tower, and the second second

Instead, therefore, of proceeding, he stopt till they came up to him, and then with the most engaging

gaging affability addressed them, inquiring whether they had been successful in the disposal of their goods; they answered bowing and courtesving: and he then infifted that, as they appeared tired. they should repair to the Hall, and rest themselves. This was too great an honor to be refuled; and they followed their noble conductor, who haftened for ward to order refreshment into a parlour for them. The nurse, who in her own way was a cunning woman, instantly suspected, from the great and uncommon attention of Lord Mortimer, that he wanted to inquire into the fituation of Amanda. As foon as the faw him at fome distance. "David," cried she, "as sure as eggs are eggs," (unpinning her white apron, and fmoothing it nicely down as the spoke) " this young Lort wants to have our company, that he may find out fomething apout Mifs Amanda. Ah! plefs her pretty face, I thought how it would be; but we must be as cunning as foxes, and not tell too much or too little; because if we told too much, it would offend her, and the would ask us how we got all our intelligence, and would not think us over and above genteel, when she heard we had sisted Jemmy Hawthorn for it, when he came down from London with her. All we must do is, just to drop fome hints, as it were, of her fituation, and then his

his Lortship, to be sure, will make his atvantage of them, and ask her every thing about herself; and then the will tell him of her own accord: fo. David, mind what you fay, I charge you." " Ay, ay," cried David, " leave me alone; I'll warrant you'll always find an old foldier cute enough for any poty." When they reached the Hall, they were shewn into a parlour, where Lord Mortimer was expecting them: with difficulty he made them fit down at the table, where meat and wine were laid out for them; after they had partaken of them, Lord Mortimer began with asking Edwin some questions about his farm, (for he was a tenant on the Tudor estate) and whether there was any thing wanting to render it more comfortable. No. Edwin replied with a low bow, thanking his honorable Lordship for his inquiry. Lord Mortimer spoke of his family. " Ay, Cot pless the poor things," Edwin faid, "they were, to be fure, a fine thriving fet of chiltren." Still Lord Mortimer had not touched on the subject nearest his heart; he felt embarraffed and agitated: at last, with as much composute as he could assume he asked, how long they imagined Miss Dunford would flay with them. Now was the nurse's time to speak: she had hitherto sat simpering and bowing. "That depended on circumftances," fhe faid.

faid. "Poor tear young laty, tho' their little cottage was fo obscure, and so unlike any thing she had before been accustomed to, she made herself quite happy with it." Her father must miss her fociety very much," exclaimed Lord Mortimer, " Tear heart, to be fure he does," cried the nurse. Well, strange things happen every tay; but still I never thought, what did happen would have happened, to make the poor old gentleman and his daughter part." "What happened?" exclaimed Lord Mortimer, starting, and suddenly stopping in the middle of the room; for hitherto he had been walking backwards and forwards. 'Twas not her business, the nurse replied, by no manner of means, to be speaking apout the affairs of her petters; put for all that she could not help faying, because she thought it a pity his Lortship, who was so good and fo affable, should remain in ignorance of every thing; that Miss Amanda was not what she appeared to be; no, if the truth was told, not the person she passed for at all; "but, lort, she would never forgive me," cried the nurse, " if your Lortship told her, it was from me your Lortship. heard this. Poor tear thing, she is very unwilling to have her fituation known, tho' she is not the first poty who has met with a pad man; and shame and forrow be upon him, who triftrest herself and her father." Lord

Lord Mortimer had heard enough; every doubt, every suspicion, was realized; and he was equally unable and unwilling to inquire further. It was plain Amanda was unworthy of his esteem; and to enquire into the circumstances which occasioned that unworthiness, would only have tortured him. He rung the bell abruptly, and ordering Mrs. Abergwilly to attend the Edwins, withdrew immediately to another room. Now was there an opportunity for Lord Mortimer to break with. Amanda, without the smallest imputation on his honor. Did it give him pleasure? No: it filled him with forrow, disappointment, and anguish; the foftness of her manners, even more than the beauty of her person, had fascinated his soul, and made him determine, if he found her worthy, (of which indeed he had then but little doubt) to cease not, till every obstacle which would impede their union, should be overcome. He was inspired with indignation at the idea of the snare he imagined fhe had spread for him; thinking, her modesty all a pretext for drawing him into making honorable proposals. As the funk in his esteem, her charms lessened in his fancy; and he thought it would be a proper punishment for her, and a noble triumph over himself, if he conquered, or at least refisted his passion, and forfook her entirely. Full of this VOL. I. idea,

idea, and influenced by refentment for her fupposed deceit, he resolved without longer delay, to fulfil the purpose which had brought him into Wales, namely, vliting his friend; but how frail is refolution and referement, when opposed by tenderness: without suffering himself to believe there was the least abatement of either in his mind, he forbid the carriage, in a few minutes after he had ordered it, merely, he perfuaded himself, for the purpose of yet more severely mortifying Amanda; as his continuing a little longer in the neighbourhood, without noticing her, might, perhaps, convince her, the was not quite fo fascinating as the believed herfelf to be. From the time his refidence at Tudor Hall was known, he had received con-Stant invitations from the furrounding families, which, (on Amanda's account) he uniformly declined; this he refolved fhould no longer be the case: some were it unanswered, and these he meant to accept, as means indeed of keeping him fleady in his refolution of not feeing her, and banishing her, in some degree, from his thoughts. But he could not have fixed on a worse method than thefe, for effecting either of his purposes: the fociety he now mixed among, was fo different from that he had lately been accustomed to, that he was continually employed in drawing comparifons

fons between them; he grew restless; his unhappines increased; and he at last selt, that if he desired to experience any comfort, he must no longer absent himself from Amanda; and also that, if she resused to accede to the only proposals now in his power to make her, he would be miserable; so essential did he deem her society to his happiness; so much was he attached from the softness and sweetness of her manners. At the time he finally determined to see her again, he was in a large party at a Welsh Baronet's, where he had dined; on the rack of impatience to put his determination in practice, he retired early, and took the road to the cottage.

Poor Amanda, during this time, was a prey to disquiet: the first day of Lord Mortimer's absence, she felt a little uneasiness, but strove to dissipate it, by thinking business had detained him. The next morning she remained entirely at home, every moment expecting to behold him; but this expectation was totally destroyed, when from the outside room she heard one of the nurse's sons tell of all the company he had met going to Sir Lewis ap Shenkin's, and amongst the rest Lord Mortimet, whose servants had told him, the day before their Lord dined at Mr. Jones's, where there was a deal of company, and a grand ball in the evening. Amanda's

manda's heart almost died within her at these words; pleasure then, not business, had prevented Lord Mortimer from coming to her; these amusements, which he had so often declared were tafteless to him, from the superior delight he experienced in her fociety. Either he was infincere in fuch expressions, or had now grown indifferent, She condemned herself for ever having permitted his visits, or received his affiduities; she reproached him for ever having paid those affiduities, knowing, as he must, the infincerity or inconstancy of his nature. In spite of wounded pride, tears of forrow and disappointment burst from her; and her only confolation was, that no one observed her. Her hours passed heavily away; she could not attend to any thing; and in the evening walked out, to indulge, in a lonely ramble, the dejection of her heart: she turned from Tudor Hall, and took, (without knowing it indeed) the very road which led to the house where Lord Mortimer had dined. With flow and pensive steps she pursued her way, regardies of all around her, till an approaching footstep made her raise her eyes, and the beheld, with equal furprife and confusion, the very object who was then employing her thoughts. Obeying the impulse of pride, she hastily turned away; till recollecting, that her precipitately avoiding

voiding him would at once betray her fentiments, the paufed to liften to his passionate inquiries after her health: having answered them with involuntary coldness, she again moved on; but her progress was soon stopt by Lord Mortimer; fnatching her hand, he infifted on knowing, why she appeared so desirous to avoid him. Amanda made no reply to this, but defired he would let her go. "Never," he exclaimed, "till you wear another face to me. Oh! did you know the pain I have fuffered fince last we met, you would from pity, I am fure, treat me with less coldness." Amanda's heart throbbed with fudden pleasure; but she foon filenced its emotion, by reflecting, that a declaration of uneafiness, at the very time he was entering into gaiety, had fomething too inconfistent in it, to merit credit. Hurt by supposing he wanted to impose on her, fhe made yet more violent efforts to disengage her hand; but Lord Mortimer held it too firmly for her to be successful: he saw she was offended, and it gave him flattering ideas of the estimation in which he stood with her, since to refent his neglect, was the most convincing proof he could receive of the value she fet upon his attention. Without hurting her feelings by a hint, that he believed the alteration in her manner occafioned by his absence, in indirect terms he apologized G3

gized for it, faying what indeed was partly true, that a letter lately received had so ruffled his mind. he was quite unfit for her fociety, and had therefore availed himself of those hours of chagrin and uneafiness to accept invitations, which at some time or other he must have done, to avoid giving offence; and by acting as he had done, he referved the precious moments of returning tranquillity for ber he adored. Ah! how readily do we receive any apology, do we admit of any excuse, that comes from a beloved object. Amanda felt as if a weight was fuddenly removed from her heart; her eyes were no longer bent to the earth, her cheek no longer pale; and a fimile, the fimile of innocence and love, enlivened all her features. She feemed fuddenly to forget her hand was detained by Lord Mortimer, for no longer did the attempt to free it; the suffered him gently to draw it within his, and lead her to their favorite haunt in Tudor Grove.

Pleased, yet blushing and confused, she heard Lord Mortimer with more energy, than he had ever yet expressed himself with, declare the pain he suffered the days he saw her not. From his ardent, his passionate expressions, what could the innocent Amanda infer, but that he intended, by uniting his destiny to her's, to secure to himself a society

he fo highly valued; what could she infer, but that he meant immediately to speak in explicit terms. The idea was too pleafing to be received in tranquillity, and her whole foul felt agitated. While they purfued their way thro' Tudor Grove, the fky, which had been louring the whole day, became fuddenly more darkened, and by its increafing gloom foretold an approaching form. Lord Mortimer no longer opposed Amanda's returning home; but scarcely had they turned for that purpose, ere the vivid lightning flashed across their path, and the thunder was awfully reverberated amongst the hills. The Hall was much nearer than the cottage, and Lord Mortimer, throwing his arm round Amanda's waift, hurried her to it; but ere they reached the library, whose door was the first they came to, the rain began pouring with violence. Lord Mortimer fnatched off Amanda's wet hat and cloak, the rest of her clothes were quite dry; and immediately ordered tea and coffee, as the refused any other refreshments: he dismissed the attendants, that he might without observation or restraint, enjoy her society. As the prefided at the tea-table, his eyes, with the fondest rapture, were fastened on her face, which never had appeared more lovely; exercise had heightened the pale tint of her cheek, o'er which G4

which her gloffy hair curled in beautiful diforder; the unufual glow gave a greater radiance to her eyes, whose soft confusion denoted the pleasure she experienced from the attentions of Lord Mortimer. He restrained not, he could not restrain, the feelings of his foul. "Oh, what happiness," he exclaimed. "No wonder I found all fociety tafteless, after having experienced your's. Where could I find fuch foftness, yet fuch fensibility; fuch sweetness, yet such animation; such beauty, yet such apparent unconsciousness of it. Oh my Amanda, smoothly must that life glide on, whose destiny you shall share." Amanda endeavoured to check these transports, yet secretly they filled her with delight, for the regarded them as the fincere effusions of honorable love. Present happiness, however, could not render her forgetful of propriety: by the time tea was over, the evening began to clear, and the protested the must depart; Lord Mortimer protested against this for some time longer, and at last brought her to the window, to convince her there was still a slight rain falling. He promised to fee her home as foon as it was over, and entreated, in the mean time, she would gratify him with a fong. Amanda did not refuse; but the raptures he expressed while singing, she thought too violent, and rose from the piano when she had concluded

cluded, in spite of his entreaties to the contrary. She insisted on getting her hat and cloak, which had been sent to Mrs. Abergwilly to dry: Lord Mortimer at last reluctantly went out to obey her.

Amanda walked to the window: the prospect from it was lovely: the evening was now perfectly ferene, a few light clouds alone floated in the fky, their lucid skirts tinged with purple rays from the declining fun; the trees wore a brighter green. and the dew-drop that had heightened their verdure, yet glittered on their sprays; across a distant valley was extended a beautiful rainbow, the facred record of heaven's covenant with man. All nature appeared revived and animated; the birds now warbled their closing lays, and the bleating of the cattle was heard from the neighbouring hills. "Oh! how fweet, how lovely is this dewy landscape," exclaimed Amanda, with that delight, which scenes of calm and vernal nature never fail of raising in minds of piety and tenderness.

"'Tis lovely indeed," repeated Lord Mortimer, who returned at the moment, affuring her the things would be fent in directly. "I admire the prospect," continued he, "because you gaze upon it with me: were you absent, like every other charm, it would lose its beauty, and become tasteher waist, "why this hurry, why this wish to leave me? Do you expect elsewhere to meet with a being, who will value your society more highly than I do? Do you expect to meet with a heart, more fondly, more firmly attached to you, than mine? Oh my Amanda, if you do, how mistaken are such expectations!"

Amanda blushed, and averted her head, unable to speak.

Ah why," continued he, pursuing her averted eyes with his, " should we create uneafiness to ourselves, by again separating?"

Amanda looked up at these words, with involuntary furprise in her countenance. Lord Mortimer understood it: he saw she had hitherto deluded herfelf with thinking, his intentions towards her very different from what they really were; to fuffer her longer to deceive herfelf, would, he thought, be cruelty. Straining her to his beating heart, he imprinted a kifs on her tremulous lips, and foftly told her, that the life which without her would lose half its charms, should be devoted to her ferwice; and that his fortune, like his heart, should be in her possession. Trembling while she struggled to free herfelf from his arms, Amanda demanded what he meant; her manner somewhat furprised

furprised and confused him; but recollecting this was the moment for explanation, he, the with half-averted eyes, declared his hopes—his wishes—and intentions. Surprise,—horror,—and indignation, for a sew minutes overpowered Amanda; but suddenly recovering her scattered senses, with a strength greater than she had ever before selt, she burst from him, and attempted to ruth from the room, Lord Mortimer caught hold of her. "Whither are you going, Amanda?" exclaimed he, affrighted by her manner.

"From the basest of men," cry'd the, struggling

to disengage herself.

He shut the door, and forced her back to a chair: he was shocked,—amazed,—and confounded by her looks; no art could have assumed such a simblance of forrow, as she now wore; no feelings, but those of the most delicate nature, have expressed such emotion as she now betrayed; the enlivening bloom of her cheeks was sled, and succeeded by a deadly paleness; and her soft eyes, robbed of their lustre, were bent to the ground with the deepest expression of woe. Lord Mortimer began to think, he had mistaken, if not her character, her disposition; and the idea of having insulted either purity or penitence, was like a dagger to his heart. "Oh my love!" he exclaimed, laying his hand on

fo abruptly?"

" My meaning, my Lord," cried she, rising and shaking his hand from her's, is now as obvious as your own-I feek, for ever, to quit a man who, under the appearance of delicate attention, meditated fo base a scheme against me. My credulity may have yielded you amusement, but it has afforded you no triumph: the tenderness which I know you think, which I shall not deny your having inspired me with, as it was excited by imaginary virtues, fo it vanishes with the illusion which gave it birth; what then was innocent, would now be guilty. Oh heavens!" continued Amanda, clasping her hands together, in a fudden agony of tears; " is it me, the helpless child of forrow, Lord Mortimer fought as a victim to illicit love! Is it the fon of Lord Cherbury, deftined such a blow against the unfortunate Fitzalan !"

Lord Mortimer started. "Fitzalan!" repeated he. "Oh! Amanda, why did you conceal your real name? and what am I to infer from your having done so?"

"What you please, my Lord," cried she,
"The opinion of a person I despise, can be of little
consequence to me. Yet," continued she, as if
suddenly recollecting hersels, "that you may have

no plea for extenuating your conduct, know, that my name was concealed by the defire of my father, who, involved in unexpected diffrefs, wished me to adopt another, till his affairs were fettled."

"This concealment has undone me," exclaimed Lord Mortimer: " it has led me into an error, I shall never cease repenting. Oh! Amanda, deign to liften to the circumstances which occafioned this error, and you will then, I am fure, think me at least less culpable than I now appear to be; you will then, perhaps, allow me to make fome atonement."

"No, my Lord," cried Amanda, "willingly I will not allow myfelf to be deceived: for without deceit, I am convinced you could mention no circumstance, which could possibly palliate your conduct, or what you fo gently term an error.

" Had I, my Lord, by art or coquetry, fought to attract your notice, your crime would have been palliated; but when you purfued, I retired; and the knowledge of your being Lord Cherbury's fon, first induced me to receive your visits. I suffered their continuance, because I thought you amiable: fad mistake! Oh! cruel ungenerous Mortimer, how have you abused my unsuspecting confidence !"

As fhe ended these words, she moved towards the door. Awed by her manner, consounded by her reproaches, tortured by remorse, and half offended at her resusing to hear his vindication, he no longer attempted to prevent her quitting the apartment: he followed her, however, from it. What do you mean, my Lord," asked she, "by coming after me?"

" I mean to see you safely home," replied he, in a tone of proud sulleness.

"And is it Lord Mortimer," oried she, looking stedsastly in his face, "pretends to see me safe?"

He stampt, struck his hand violently against his forehead, and exclaimed, "I see—I see—I am despicable in your eyes; but, Amanda, I cannot endure your reproaches. Pause for a sew minutes, and you will find I am not so deserving of them as you imagine."

She made no reply, but quickened her pace; within a few yards of the cottage Lord Mortimer caught her with a distracted air. "Amanda," said he, "I cannot hear to part with you in this manner: you think me the veriest villain on earth; you will drive me from your heart; I shall become abhorrent to you."

Most assuredly, my Lord," replied she, in a solemn voice.

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" Cannot compunction then extenuate my eror ?"?

"'Tis not compunction, 'tis regret you feel,

for finding your deligns unfuccessful."

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" No: by all that is facred, 'tis remorfe for ever having meditated such an injury. Yet I again repeat, if you listen to me, you will find I am not to culpable as you believe. Oh! let me beseech you to do fo; let me hope, that my life may be devoted to you alone, and that I may thus have opportunities of apologizing for my conduct. Oh! dearest Amanda," kneeling before her, " drive me not from you in the hour of penitence."

"You plead in vain, my Lord," cried she, breaking from him.

He started in an agony from the ground, and again feized her. " Is it thus," he exclaimed, with fuch unfeeling coldness I am abandoned by Amanda! I will leave you, if you only fay, I am not deteffed by you; if you only fay, the remembrance of the fweet hours we have fpent together, will not become bateful to you."

He was pale, and trembled; and a tear wet his cheek. Amanda's began to flow: the averted her head, to hide her emotion; but he had perceived it. "You weep, my Amanda," faid he, "and you feel the influence of pity!"

"No, no," cried she, in a voice scarcely articulate. "I will acknowledge," continued she, "I believe you possessed of sensibility; and an anticipation of the painful feelings it will excite on the reflection of your conduct to me, now stops my further reproaches. Ah! my Lord, timely prosit by mental correction, nor ever again encourage a passion, which virtue cannot sanction, or reason justify.

And the grave rebuke, severe, in youthful beauty,
Added grace invincible.

Amanda darted from Lord Mortimer; and entering the cottage, hastily closed the door. Her looks terrified the nurse, who was the only one of the family up, and who, by means of one of her sons, had discovered, that Amanda had taken refuge from the thunder storm in Tudor Hall.

Amanda had neither hat or cloak on; her face was pale as death; her hair, blown by the wind, and wet from the rain, hung dishevelled about her; and to the inquiries of her nurse she could only answer by sobs and tears. "Lack a tay," said the nurse, "what ails my sweet chilt?"

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Relieved by tears, Amanda told her nurse she was not very well; and that she had been resecting on the great impropriety there was in receiving Lord Mortimer's visit, whom she begged her nurse, (if he came again) not to admit.

The nurse shook her head, and said she supposed there had been some quarrel between them; but if Lort Mortimer had done any thing to vex her tear chilt, she would make him pay for it. Amanda charged her never to address him on such a subject, and having made her promise not to admit him, she retired to her chamber faint, weary and distressed. The indignity offered her by Colonel Belgrave, had insulted her purity, and offended her pride, but it had not wounded the softer feelings of her soul; it was Mortimer alone had power to work them up to agony.

The charm which had soothed her sorrows, was seled; and while she glowed with keen resentments she wept from disappointed tenderness. "Alas! my father," (she cried) is this the secure retreat you fondly thought you had discovered for me. Sad mistake! Less had I to dread from the audacious front of vice, than the insidious form of virtue: delicacy shrinking from one, immediately announced the danger; but innocence inspired confidence in the other; and credulity, instead of suf-

picion, occupied the mind. Am I doomed to be the victim of deception? and except thy honest tender heart, my father, find every other fraught with deceit and treachery to me? Alas! if in the early season of youth, perpetual perfidy makes us relinquish candor and hope, what charms can the world retain? The soul sickening recoils within itself, and no longer startles at dissolution. Belgrave aimed at my peace—but Mortimer alone had power to pierce "the vital vulnerable heart." Oh Mortimer! from you alone the blow is severe—you, who, in divine language I may say, were my guide, my companion, and my familiar striend."

Lord Mortimer was now a prey to all the pangs which an ingenuous mind, oppressed with a consciousness of error, must ever seel: the most implacable vengeance could not devise a greater purishment for him, than his own thoughts inslicted: the empire of inordinate passion was o'erthrown, and honor and reason regained their full and natural ascendancy over him. When he resected on the uniform appearance of innocence Amanda had always worn, he wondered at his weakness in ever having doubted its reality—at his audacity, in ever having insulted it; when he resected on her melancholy, he shuddered as if having aggravated it.

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"Your forrows, as well as purity, my Amanda," he cried, "should have rendered you a facred object to me."

A ray of consolation darted into his mind, at the idea of prevailing on her to liften to the circumflances, which had led him into a conduct fo unworthy of her and himfelf: fuch an explanation, he trusted, would regain her love and confidence, and make her accept, what he meant immediately to offer-his hand: for pride and ambition could raife no obstacles to oppose this design of reparation; his happiness depended on its being accepted. Amanda was dearer to him than life, and hope could fketch no prospect, in which she was not the foremost object. Impetuous in his passions, the lapse of the hours was insupportably tedious; and the idea of waiting till the morning to declare his penitence, his intention, and again implore her forgiveness, filled him with agony: he went up to the cottage, and laid his hand upon the latch; 'he hesitated; even from the rusticks he wished shame and confusion. All to conceal his within and without the cottage was still; the moon-beams feemed to fleep upon the thatch, and the trees were unagitated by a breeze.

"Happy rusticks," exclaimed Lord Mortimer.
"Children of content and undeviating integrity,
sleep

fleep preffes fweetly on your eye-lids. M Amanda too rests, for the is innocent." He de feended to the valley, and faw a light from he window; he advanced within a few yards of it and faw her plainly walk about with an agitate air-her handkerchief raised to her eyes, as if the wept. His feelings rose almost to frenzy at this fight, and he execrated himfelf for being the occafion of her tears. The village clock ftruck one: Good heavens, how many hours must interven ere he could kneel before the lovely mourner, inplore her foft voice to accord his pardon, and /a he flattered himself would be the case) in the fulness of reconciliation, press her to his throbbing heart, as the fweet partner of his future days. The light was at last extinguished; but he could not rest, and continued to wander about like a perturbed spirit, till the day began to dawn, and he faw fome early peafants coming to their labours. on a cast to the first stage of the stage of

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CHAP. VIII.

O let me now, into a richer foil

Transplant thee safe, where vernal suns and showers

Diffuse their warmest, largest influence;

And of my garden be the pride, and joy.

THOMSON.

THE moment he thought he could see Amand, Mortimer hastened to the cottage: the nurse, as she had promised, would not reproach him, tho' she strongly suspected his having done something to offend her child; but her sullen air declared her dissatisaction. "Miss Fitzalan was too ill" she said, "to se company:" (for Lord Mortimer had enquired for Amanda by her real name, detesting the one of Dunford, to which, in a great degree, he imputed his unfortunate conduct to her.) The nurse

nurse spoke truth in saying Amanda was ill; her agitation was too much for her frame, and in the morning she felt so severish, she would not rise; she had not spirits indeed to attempt it. Sunk to the lowest state of dejection, she felt solitude alone congenial to her feelings. Hitherto the morning had been impatiently expected: for with Mortimer she erjoyed its

" cool, its fragrant, and its filent hour."

But no Mortimer was now defired. In the evening he made another attempt; and finding Ellen alone, fent in a supplicatory message by her to Amanda. She was just risen, and Mrs. Edwin was making tea for her; a slush of indignation overspread her pale sace, on receiving his message. "Tell him," said she, "I am astonished at his request, and never will grant it. Let him seek elsewhere a heart more like his own, and trouble my repose no more."

He heard her words, and in a fit of passion and disappointment slew cut of the house. Howell entered soon after, and heard from Ellen an account of the quarrel: a secret hope sprung in his heart at this intelligence, and he desired Ellen to meet him in about half an hour in the valley, thinking

by that time he could dictate some message to send

As the parson had never paid Miss Fitzalan any of those attentions which strike a vulgar eye, and had often laughed and samiliarly chatted with Ellen, she took it into her head he was an admirer of her's; and if being the object of Chip's admiration excited the envy of her neighbours, how much would that increase, when the parson's predilection was known. She set about adorning herself for her appointment; and while thus employed, the honest suthful Chip entered, attired in his holiday cloaths to escort her to a little dance. Ellen bridled up, at the first intimation of it; and delighted with the message Amanda had sent to Lord Mortimer, which in her opinion was extremely eloquent, she resolved now to imitate it.

"Timothy," faid she, drawing back her head, "your request is the most improperest that can be conceived, and it is by no means convenient for me to adhere to it. I tell you, Tim," cried she, waving the corner of her white apron, for white handkerchief she had not, "I wonder at your presumptioness in making it—cease your flattering expressions of love—look out amongst the inferiority for a heart more like your own—and trouble my pleasure no more."

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Chip paused for a moment, as if wanting to comprehend her meaning. "The short and the long of it then, Nell," said he, "is, that you and I are to have nothing more to say to each other."

"True," cried his coquetish mistress.

"Well, well, Nell," faid he, half crying, "the time may come, when you will repent having ferved a true hearted lad in this manner." So faying, he ran from the house.

Ellen surveyed herself with great admiration, and expected nothing less than an immediate offer of the parson's hand. She found him punctual to his appointment, and after walking some time about the valley, they sat down together upon a little bank. "Ellen," said he, taking her hand, "do you think there is any hope for me?"

"Nay, now intead, Mr. Howell," cried she, with affected coyness, "that is such a strange question."

"But the quarrel, perhaps," said he, may be made up."

"No, I assure you," replied she, with quickness, "it was entirely on your account it ever took place."

"Is it possible," exclaimed he, pleasure sparkling in his eyes, "then I may re-urge my passion." "Ah tear now, Mr. Howell, you are so very pressing."

"Do you think," asked he, " she is too ill to

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" Who too ill ?"

"Why, Miss Fitzalan." (For the moment Ellen knew Lord Mortimer acquainted with Amanda's name, she thought there was no longer reason for concealing it from any one, and had informed Howell of it.)

"Mis Fitzalan!" repeated she, staring and

changing colour.

"Yes, Ellen, the dear lovely Miss Fitzalan, whom I adore more than language can express, or imagination conceive."

Adieu to Ellen's airy hopes: her chagrin could not be concealed; and tears burst from her. The curate tenderly inquired the cause of her emotion: tho' vain, she was not artful, and could not difguise it. "Why really you made such speeches, I thought—and then you looked so. But it is no matter; I pelieve all men are teceitful."

From her tears and disjointed fentences, he began, to suspect something, and his gentle mind was hurt at the idea of giving her pain; anxious, however, to receive his doom from Amanda, he again asked, if she thought he could see her.

VOL. I. H Ellen

Ellen answered him snappishly, she could not tell; and hurried to the cottage, where a flood of tears soon relieved her distress. To be dressed so charmingly, and for no purpose, was a pity: she therefore resolved on going to the dance, consoling hersels with the old saying of having more than one string to her bow; and that if Chip was not as genteel, he was quite as personable a man as the curate. Walking down the lane, she met a little boy, who gave her a letter from Chip: full of the idea of its containing some overtures for a reconciliation, she hastily broke it open, and read to the following effect:

"Ellen, after your cruelty I could not bear to stay in the village, as I never could work another stroke with a light heart; and every tree and meadow would remind me of the love my dear girl once bore her poor Chip. So before this comes to hand, I shall be on my way to enter one of the King's ships, and heaven knows whether we shall ever meet again; but this I know, I shall always love Ellen, tho' she was so cruel to her own saithful

Thus did the vanity of Ellen receive a speedy punishment. Her distress for some days was unabated, abated, but at last yielded to the mild arguments of Amanda, and the hopes she inspired of seeing the wandering hero again.

Howell at last obained an interview, and ventured to plead his passion. Amanda thanked him for his regard, but declared her inability of returning it as he wished; assuring him, however, at the same time of her sincere friendship.

"This then shall suffice," said he. "Neither forrow or disappointment are new to me; and when they oppress me, I will turn to the idea of my angel friend, and forget (for some moments at least) my heavy burthen."

Lord Mortimer made several attempts for again seeing Amanda, but without success: he then wrote, but his letters were not more successful. In despair at finding neither letters or messages received by Amanda, he at last, by stratagem, essected an interview: meeting one of the young Edwins returning from the post-town with a letter, he inquired, and heard it was for Miss Fitzalan; a little persuasion prevailed on the young man to relinquish it, and Lord Mortimer slew directly to the cottage. "Now," cried he, " the inexorable girl must appear, if she wishes to receive her letter." The nurse informed Amanda of it; but she suspecting it to be a scheme, resused to H 2 appear.

appear. "By heaven, I do not deceive her," exclaimed Lord Mortimer, "nor will I give the letter into any hand but her's."

This, my Lord," faid Amanda, coming from her chamber, " is really cruel; but give me the letter," impatiently stretching out her hand for it.

"Another condition remains to be complied with," cried he, feizing her foft hand, which she, however, instantly withdrew. "You must read it, Miss Fitzalan in my presence."

Good heavens, how you torment me!" the

"Do you comply then."

Yes," she replied, and received the letter

The pity and compunation of his Lordship increased, as he gazed on her pale face, while her eyes eagerly ran over the contents of the letter, which were as follows.

TO MISS FITZALAN.

Amanda, rewards me for tedious months of wretchedness. Dry up your tears, sweet child of early forrow; for the source of grief exists no longer Lord Cherbury has been kind beyond my warmest expectations, and has given me the inestable de-

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light, as far as pecuniary matters can do, of rendering the future days of my Amanda happy. In my next I shall be more explicit: at present I have not a moment I can call my own, which must excuse this laconic letter. The faithful Edwins will rejoice in the renewed fortune of their dear Amanda's affectionate father,

AUGUSTUS FITZALAN.

Jermyn-street, &c. &c.

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eht The emotions of Amanda were irrepressible: the letter dropt from her trembling hands, and her streaming eyes were raised to heaven. "Oh! bless him," she exclaimed. "Gracious heaven, bless the benefactor of my father, for this good deed. May forrow or misfortune never come across his path."

"And who, may I afk," faid Lord Mortimes,
"merits so sweet a prayer from Amanda?"

"See," cried she, presenting him the letter, as if happy at the moment to have such a proof of the truth of what she had alleged to him.

Lord Mortimer was affected by the letter: his eyes filled with tears, and he turned afide to hide his emotion; recovering himself, he again approached her. "And while you so sweetly pray for the selicity of the father," said he, "are you H3 resolved

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resolved on dooming the son to despair? If sincere penitence can extenuate error, and merit mercy, I deserve to be forgiven."

Amanda rose, as if with an intention of retiring; but Lord Mortimer caught her hand. "Think not," cried he, "I will lose the present opportunity, (which I have so long defired, and with such dissipation of the intention into a vindication into a vindication of the intention into a vindication into a vindication of the intention intention into a vindication of the intention intention into a vindication of the intention intention intention into a vindication of the intention into a vindication of the intention inte

The idea of his being able to vindicate himself, scarcely afforded less pleasure to Amanda, than it did to Lord Mortimer. She suffered him to reseat her, while he related the circumstances which had led him aftray in his opinion of her. Oh! how fervent was the rapture that pervaded Amanda's heart, when, as she listened to him, she found he was still the amiable, the generous, the noble character, her sancy had first conceived him to be.

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Tears of pleasure, as exquisite as those she had lately shed, again sell from her: for oh! what delight is there in knowing, that an object we cannot help loving, we may still esteem. "Thus," continued Lord Mortimer, "have L accounted for my error; an error, which, except on account of your displeasure, I know not whether I should regret; as it has convinced me, more forcibly than any other circumstance could have done, of the persections of your mind; and has besides removed from mine, prejudices which causelessly I did not entertain against your sex. Was every woman in a similar situation to act like you,

Of broken vows and faithless men complain.

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"To call you mine, is the height of my wishes: on your decision I rest for happiness. Oh! my Amanda, let it be a favorable decision, and suffer me to write to Mr. Fitzalan, and request him to bestow on me, the greatest treasure one being could possibly receive from another, a woman lovely and educated as you have been."

When he mentioned appealing to her father, Amanda could no longer doubt the fincerity of his intentions. Her own heart pleaded as powerfully as his folicitations did for pardoning him; and if the did not absolutely extend her hand, the at last suffered it to be taken without any reluctance. "I am forgiven then," said Lord Mortimer, pressing her to his bosom. "Oh my Amanda, years of tender attention can never make up for this goodness."

When his transports were a little abated, he insisted on writing immediately to Fitzalan: as he sealed the letter, he told Amanda, he had requested an expeditious answer. The happiness of the youthful pair was communicated to the honest rustics, whom Lord Mortimer liberally rewarded for their fidelity to his Amanda, and whom she readily excused for their ambiguous expressions to him; knowing they proceeded from simplicity of heart, and a wish of serving her, yet without injuring themselves, by betraying the manner in which they had procured intelligence of her situation.

The day after the reconciliation, Lord Mortimer told Amanda, he was compelled, for a fhort time, to leave her: with what reluctance, he hoped, he faid, she could readily conceive; but the visit which he had come into Wales for the purpose of paying, had been so long deferred, his friend was growing impatient, and threatened to come

come to Tudor Hall, to fee what detained him. there. To prevent such a measure, which he: knew would be a total interruption to the happiness he enjoyed in her society, Lord Mortimer added, he meant to pass a few days with him; hoping by the time he returned, there would be a letter from Mr. Fitzalan, which would authorize: his immediate preparations for their nuptials. Amanda wished (but could not) totally hide the: uneafiness she felt at the prospect of a separation ! the idea, however, of his speedy return rendered. it but transient, and he departed in a few hours. after he had mentioned his intention.

Amanda had never before experienced fuch happiness as she now enjoyed: she now saw herself, on the point of being elevated to a fituation, (by a man too fhe adored) which would give her ample opportunities of ferving the dearest connexions of her heart, and of gratifying the benevolence of her disposition, and the elegance of her taste. Oh! how delightful to think, she should be able to footh the declining period of her father's life, by providing for him all the requifite indulgences of age: oh! how delightful to think, she should be: acceffary to her dear Oscar's promotion; how rapturous to imagine, at her approach the drooping; children of misery would brighten with pleasing H 5 prefages.

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presages of relief, which she should amply realize. Such were Amanda's anticipations of what she termed the blessings of an assument fortune: felicity in her opinion, was to be dissused to be enjoyed. Of Lord Cherbury's sanction to the attachment of his son, she entertained not a doubt: her birth was little inferior to his, and fortune was entirely out of the question; for a liberal mind, she thoughts could never look to that, when on one side was already possessed more than sufficient for even the luxuries of life. Such were the ideas of the innocent and romantic Amanda; ideas, which made her seem to tread on air, and which she entertained, till subsequent experience convinced her of their fallacy.

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CHAP. IX.

Alas I the story melts away my foul,

That best of fathers, how shall I discharge

The gratitude and duty which I owe him?

and the Thing Long the lay but be to the

By laying up his counsels in your heart.

CATO.

A MANDA was sitting in the recess in the garden, the sourth evening of Lord Mortimer's absence, when suddenly she heard the rattling of a carriage: her heart bounded, and she shew into the house; at the very moment a chaise stopt at the door, from which, to her inexpressible amazement, her father descended.

Transfixed to the fpot, it was many minutes ere she had power to hid him welcome, or return the sond caresses he bestowed upon her. " I am H 6 come,

come, Amanda," faid he, eagerly interrupting the joyful speeches of the Edwins, "to take you away with me; and one hour is all I can give you to prepare yourself."

"Good heaven," faid Amanda, starting, " to

take me away immediately?"

"Immediately," he repeated. "And as I know you are attached to this good girl," (turning to Ellen) "I shall be happy, if her parents permit it, to procure her attendance for you."

The Edwins, who would have followed themfelves, or allowed any of their family to follow Fitzalan and his daughter round the world, gladly confented to her going; and the girl, exclusive of her attachment to Amanda, which was very great, having pined ever fince her lover's departure, rejoiced at the idea of a change of scene.

Not so Amanda: it made her suffer agony, to be torn from Lord Mortimer in the hour of reconciliation and explanation, was more than she could support with fortitude. Her father, perhaps, had not received his letter; it was but justice then to him and Lord Mortimer to reveal her situation. She left her trunk half-packed, and went out for that purpose; but as she stood before him with quivering lips and half averted eyes, at a loss to begin, he took her hand, and softly exclaimed

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Mylove, let us for the present wave every subject the moments are precious, hasten to put on your habit or we shall be too late at the stage where I propose resting to night." Amanda turned in filence to her chamber to comply with his defire, tears ran down her cheeks, and for the first time she conceived the idea of being hurried away to avoid Lord Mortimer; but why she could not think, honour as well as tenderness she thought demanded her acquainting him with the cause of her precipitate journey: but when she took up a pen for that purpose, her hand was unfteady and she was so much disturbed by the nurse and her daughters, who ran backwards and forwards in all the buftle of preparation, that the could not write; her father prevented a second effort, for he was continually coming to her chamber door urging her to be quick, and, by thus watching completely prevented her delivering any message tothe nurse for Lord Mortimer; so great was his eagerness to depart he would not suffer the horses to be taken from the chaise or any refreshment to be brought him by the Edwins, notwithstanding their preffing entreaties, neither would he answer their interrogatories as to where he was going, faying they should know hereafter; the parting embrace was at last given and received with a heavy heart-Amanda was handed to the carriage-filence prevailed-all the

the travellers were equally tho' differently affected; the cottage and the spire of the village church had awakened the most affecting remembrances in the mind of Fitzalan, and tears fell from him to the memory of his unfortunate Malvina: fighs burft from Amanda as she viewed the white turrets of Tudor-hall, and Ellen fobbed on paffing the forfaken Cottage of poor Chip. From all these affecting and beloved objects the rapidity of the carriage foon conveyed them, but the impressions they left upon their minds were not fo easily eradicated; Fitzalan was the first to break the unfocial silence, and it feemed as if he did fo for the purpose of roufing the dejection of his daughter: a cross road from the cottage shortly brought them to Conwayferry, which they were obliged to pass, and here had Amanda's mind been at ease, she would have felt truly gratified by viewing the remains of gothic magnificence which Castle Conway exhibited; as it was fhe could not behold them unmoved, and, whilft she admired, gave the passing tribute of a figh to grandeur in decay. They only continued in Conway till a carriage was provided for them, and foon came beneath the stupenduous projections of Penmaenmawr; this was a scene as new as awful to Amanda: "well Cot in heaven pless their souls," Ellen faid, " what a tefil of a way they should be in

if one of them huge stones rolled down upon the carriage." They stopped not again till they reached Bangor serry where they were to rest for the night; Amanda's strength and spirits were now so entirely exhausted, that had not a glass of wine been immediately procured her she would have sainted from weakness, this a little revived her and the tears she shed relieved in some degree the oppressions of her heart; her father left her and Ellen together while he went to give directions about the journey of the ensuing day.

Amanda went to the window and threw up the fash, the air from the mountains she thought refreshed her; the darkness of the hour was opposed by a bright moon, which cast a trembling radiance upon the water, and by its partial gleams exhibited a beautiful scene of light and shade, that had Amanda been in another frame of mind the would infinitely have admired, the scene too was almost as still as it was lovely, for no voice was heard except a low murmur from voices below stairs: while she stood here in a deep reverie the paddling of oars fuddenly roused her, and she beheld a boat on the opposite shore, which in a few minutes gained the one where she was, and she saw coming from it to the inn a large party of gentlemen whose air and attendants announced them to be men of fashion, they feemed

feemed by their discourse to be a convivial party; the light was too dim to allow their faces to be difcerned, but in the figure of one Amanda thought the perceived a strong resemblance to Lord Mortimer, her heart throbbed, the leaned forward to endeavour to distinguish more plainly, and at the moment heard his well known voice ordering his groom to have the horses ready at twelve o'clock, as he would take the advantage of such fine weather to set off at that hour for Tudor-hall; the party were then ushered into a room contigious to the one occupied by Amanda, while the buftling of the waiters and the clattering of knives, forks and plates, announced the preparations for a late dinner. Oh I what were now the agitations of Amanda, to think that in one moment the could inform Lord Mortimer of her fituation; but the transport the idea gave was relinquished almost as soon as felt, as such a measure she thought might perhaps for ever disoblige her father: in this tumult of doubt and perplexity he found her, and by his conduct convinced her that he not only knew of Lord Mortimer's being in the house but wished her to avoid him, for he instanly led her. from the window, and, shutting it down, darted, for the first time in his life, a severe frown at her; a dagger in the breast of Amanda could scarcely have given.

given her more pain—a cold horror ran thro' her veins, and she was opprest by as many sears as if she had been conscious of offending him. The supper he had ordered was a little retarded by the late dinner of his gay neighbours, he would have had it in another room had another been disengaged; vainly did his timid companions try to eat—Amanda was sick, and Ellen frightened, tho' she knew not why; the waiter was dismissed, and the most unsocial silence prevailed.

Unbounded gaiety reigned in the next apartment, from which every found could plainly be diffinguished—dinner over, the exhilerating juice went round, and bumper toafts were called-Lord Mortimer at last was asked for a fair nymph, "I will give you, " exclaimed he, in a voice which denoted his being uncommonly elevated, "an Angel!" Amanda's heart beat violently and her cheeks glowed. A name for this celestial beauty? demanded one of the party: Amanda cried his Lordship. "Oh, faith Mortimer that wont do," aid another of his companions, " this angel shall not pass without the rest of her name." " Miss Fitzalan then," exclaimed his Lordship, "Oh, oh," cried a new voice, with a loud laugh, after due honor had been paid to the toaft, " I begin to unravel a mystery, upon my foul I could not con-

ceive till this inftant what had kept you fo long at the Hall, for I had feen the maiden part of the household and knew the mettle there not very attractive, but this Amanda I suppose is the rosy daughter of some poor curate in its vicinity, who for-" Beware," interrupted Lord Mortimer, in an agitated voice, " of what you fay, give me no reason to repent having introduced a name so valued into this company—the fituation of Miss Fitzalan is not exactly what you suppose-but let this fuffice for you-to know it is fuch as fecures her from every species of impertinence, and was it even less protected her own elegance and propriety would elevate her above receiving any." The face of Fitzalan during this conversation was erimfoned over, and he again darted a frown at the trembling Amanda which almost petrified her: he told her that the and Ellen must retire immediately to rest as they had a long journey before them the enfuing day, which would require their rifing early. Amanda for the first time in her life wished to be relieved from his prefence, and gladly rose to obey him; he attended her himfelf to the room prepared for her, which was directly over that where the gentlemen far: to think of rest was impossible—the feverity of her father's looks, and her precipitate journey—the knew not whitherbut

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but evidently for the purpose of avoiding Lord Mortimer-filled the thoughts of Amanda with confusion and distress: Ellen essayed artless confolation, "what the tefil do you think" faid she, h if I was to go down and give his lortship an intimation of your peing here, you could eafily contrive to fee him in the garden, or elfe we could pring him up here, and if the captain surprized us we could pop him in a moment behind the curtain." Amanda motioned her to filence, unwilling to lose the smallest sound of Lord Mortimer's voice, and determined, anxious as she was to see him, never to act in opposition to her father. At length the horses were led from the stable, and the convivial party descended to them. Amanda softly raifed the window and faw Lord Mortimer eagerly vault upon the faddle, he gave a hafty adieu to his friends and gallopped off; they mounted at the same time, but took a contrary direction. Amanda leaned out till she could no longer hear the clattering of the horses hoofs—her heart sunk as the found died upon her ear-she wept as she retired from the window-the idea of Mortimer's disappointment aggravated her grief, she no longer opposed Ellen's efforts to undress her, exhausted by fatigue sleep soon closed her eyes, and fancy again transported her to Tudor hall, and Mortimer.

By the first dawn of day a knock at her chamber door roused her from this pleasing illusion, and she heard her father defiring her to rife immediately; drowfy as the was, the instantly obeyed the summons, and awaking Ellen they were ready to attend him in a few minutes; a boat was already prepared and on gaining the opposite side they found a carriage in waiting. Day was now just dawning, a grey mist enveloped the mountains and cast a Thade of obscurity upon all the inferior objectsat length the atmosphere began to brighten-the lucid clouds in the east were tinged with golden radiance, and the fun in beautiful and refulgent majesty arose, gladdening the face of nature with his potent beams; the trees, the fhrubs, feemed waving their dewy heads, in fign of grateful homage, while their winged inhabitants, as they feared in the air, poured forth the foftest notes of melody. Amanda in spite of sadness beheld the charming fcene with admiration, and Fitzalan contemplated it with delight. " All nature " he exclaimed, er points out to man the gratitude due to the divine dispenser of good, hardened must that heart be against the feelings of fensibility which the harmony and fragrance of this early hour awakens not to a perfect fense of it: " Amanda affented more by a finile than words (for the was ill able to speak)

to his remark. They stopped not till they reached Gwintey, where they breakfasted, and then proceeded, without resting again, to Holyhead, which place Fitzalan announced as they entered it, and now Amanda first conceived the idea of being brought to another kingdom, in which her father foon confirmed her, for as foon as they alighted he inquired when a packet would fail, and heard with evident pleasure about fix in the afternoon; he directly defired three passages to be engaged, and, having ordered an early dinner, dismissed Ellen into another room, and feating himfelf by Amanda he took her hand, and with a tender voice thus addressed her: - " To give pain to your gentle heart has inflicted torture on mine, but honour compelled me to the conduct which I have adopted, and which I trust and believe Amanda will excuse when she knows my motive for it, which in due order the thall hear - on Lord Cherbury's arrival in town I was immediately informed of it, according to the promise of his domestics, and directly fent him my letter; scarcely had he read it ere with all the ardour of real friendship he came and brought me to his house, where we might securely reflect on what was to be done; his Lordship soon formed a plan that at once inspired me with gratitude and pleasure, as it promised me competence

competence without depriving me of independance—this was to accept the agency of a confiderable estate in the north of Ireland, which he possessed in right of his wife, the late Countess of Cherbury, who was an irish heiress: he proposed my refiding in the manfion house, offering to advance a fum fufficient to answer all demands and exigencies; and striving to lighten the obligations he conferred upon me, by declaring he had long been feeking a man of well known probity, as his last agent had gone off considerably in-arrears with him. I accepted his generous offer and foon freed myself from the power of Belgrave-I now felt a tranquillity I was long a stranger to, and was busied in preparing to come down to you when Lord Mortimer's letter, like a clap of thunder, broke the happy calm I enjoyed-gracious heaven, I shuddered to think that at the very period Lord Cherbury was building up my fortunes, the hopes he entertained for this darling fon were in a way of being destroyed, through means of a connexion of mine; he had hinted to me his having already fettled upon a splendid alliance for Lord Mortimer, which he also hinted his heart was fet on: this the infatuated young man had himself some knowledge of, for in his rash letter he entreated my fecrecy relative to his propofal for you

beyond the power of mortals to separate you:
o doubt he would never have asked my consent
ad he thought he could have procured you withut it; he took me I suppose for some needy and
mbitious creature, who would, tho' at the expence
si integrity, grasp an opportunity of elevating a
hild to rank and fortune; but never was an ering mortal more mistaken, tho' dearer to me than
he air I breathe—tho' the lovely child of my lost
Malvina—though a cherubim, whose innocent enlearments often raised in me, as Prospero says—

- "An undergoing fromach-to bear up
- " Against what should ensue. "

I would rather see you breathless at my feet, than, by conscious and apparent meanness, deserve and incur the malevolence of calumny—I committed the letter to the slames, and requested Lord Cherbury's final commands; being desirous to commence my journey without longer delay, as your delicate state of health I said made me anxious to have you immediately under my own care; he complied with my request, and I travelled post, resolved to separate you and Lord Mortimer—even if prepared for the altar, nor was I alone actuated to this by gratifude to Lord Cherbury, or consideration

confideration for my own honour-no, with their a regard for your peace equally influenced mefoul of fensibility and refinement like yours could never, I know, be happy if treated with repullive coldness by the family of her husband; particularly if her conscience told her she merited that coldness by entering it clandestinely-could I bear to think that you-fo lovely in person-so amiable in manners-fo illustrious in descent-should be called an artful and necessitous contriver; an imputation, which, most undoubtedly, your union with Lord Mortimer would have incurred-no-to the God who gave you to my care, I hold myfelf responsible, as far as in my power, for preserving your peace-to the mother, whose last words inplored my tenderness for her offspring, I hold my felf accountable—to me the still exists—I think her ever near-and ere I act, always reflect whe ther fuch an action would meet her approbationfuch is the respect virtue excites—it lives when the frail texture of mortality is diffolved. You attachment, when repelled by reason and fortitude will foon vanish; as for Lord Mortimer, remove from the flame which warmed his heart, he will foon forget it ever played around it-should he however, be daring enough to perfevere, he will find my refolution unalterable. Honour is the onl

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only hereditary possession that ever came to me uninjured; to preferve it in the fame state has been ever my unremitted study-it irradiated the gloomy morning of care, and I trust it will gild the fetting hours of existence. Amanda's emotions deprived her of speech or action-she fat a pale statue listening to her father's firm and rapid language, which announced the abolition of her hopes; ignorant of her inability to speak he felt hurt at her filence and rifing abruptly walked about the room with a disordered air, I see-I seecried he at last, looking mournfully upon her, I am destined to be unhappy, the little treasure which remained from the wreck of felicity, I had hoped, (vain hope!) would have comforted and confoled me for what then was loft. Oh my father! exclaimed Amanda, fuddenly flarting and fighing deeply, how you pierce my heart; his pale emaciated looks feemed to declare him finking beneath a burthen of care, the started up and flung herself into his arms; "deareft, best of fathers," she exclaimed, in a voice broken by fobs, "what is all the world to me in comparison of you, shall I put Lord Mortimer, so lately a stranger, in competition with your happiness-oh no! I will henceforth try to regulate every impulse of my heart according to your wishes. Fitzalan burst into VOL. I. tears

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tears—the enthusiasm of virtue warmed them both—hallowed are her raptures, and amply do they recompense the pain attendant on her sacrifices.

Dinner was brought in to which they fat down in their usual focial manner, and Amanda, happy in her father's fmiles, felt a ray of returning cheerfulness. The evening was delightfully ferene when they went on board, and the veffel, with a gentle motion, glided over the glittering waves. fickness soon compelled Amanda and Ellen to retire from the deck; yet, without a figh, the former could not relinquish the receding prospect of the welfh mountains. By the dawn of next morning the veffel entered the bay of Dublin. and Fitzalan shortly after brought Amanda from the cabin to contemplate a scene which far surpast all her ideas of fublimity and beauty, a scene which the rifing fun foon heightened to the most glowing radiance; they landed at the Marine hotel, where they breakfasted, and then proceeded in a carriage to an hotel in Capel street, where they proposed staying a few days for the purpose of enjoying Ofcar's company, whose regiment was quartered in Dublin, and making fome requifite purchases for their journey to the north: as the carriage drove down Capel street Amanda faw

faw a young officer standing at the corner of Mary's Abbey whose air very much resembled Oscar's, her heart palpitated, she looked out and perceived the resemblance was a just one, for it was Oscar himself—the carriage passed too swiftly for him to recognize her face, but he was astonished to see a fair hand waving to him, he walked down the street and reached the hotel just as they were entering it.

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CHAP

CHAP. X.

And whence unhappy youth he cried, The forrows of thy breast.

GOLDSMITH.

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description, to Oscar they were heightened by surprise, he was unfortunately that day on guard at the bank, therefore could only pay them a few short and stolen visits, but the next morning, the moment he was relieved, he came to them. Fitzalan had given Amanda money to purchase whatever she deemed necessary for her convenience and amusement, and Oscar attended her to the most celebrated shops to make her purchases: having supplied herself with a pretty fashionable assortment for her wardrobe, she procured a small collection of books, sufficient however

eyer from their excellence to form a little library in themselves, and every requisite for drawing; nor did the forget the little wants and vanities of Ellen: they returned about dinner time to the hotel, where they found their father, who had been transacting business for Lord Cherbury in different parts of the town. We may now suppose him in the possession of happiness, blest as he was in the fociety of his children, and the certainty of a competence; but alas, happiness has almost ever an attendant draw-back, and he now experienced one of the most corroding kind from the alteration he witnessed in his son: Oscar was improved in person, but his eyes no longer beamed with animation, and the role upon his cheek was pale, his cheerfulness no longer appeared spontaneous, but constrained, as if assumed . for the purpole of veiling deep and heartfelt forrow.

Fitzalan, with all the anxiety and tenderness of a parent, delicately expressed his wish of learning the source of his uneasiness, that by so doing he might be better qualified to alleviate it, hinting at the same time in indirect terms that if occasioned by any of the imprudencies which youth is sometimes inadvertently led into, he would readily excuse them, from a certainty that

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he who repented never would again commit them. Ofcar started from the remotest hint of divulging his uneafiness, he begged his father, however, to believe (fince he had unfortunately perceived it) that it was not derived from imprudence, he pretended to fay it was but a flight chagrin which would foon wear away of itself if not renewed by inquiries. Fitzalan, however, was too much affected by the fubject to drop it as readily as Ofcar wished; after regarding him for a few minutes with an attention as mournful as fixed, (while they fat round the table after dinner) he fuddenly exclaimed, " alas, my dear boy, I fear things are worse within than you will allow." Now indeed Ofcar cried: Amanda sweetly smiling on him, anxious to relieve him from the em--barrassment these words had involved him in, and to diffipate the deep gloom of her father's brow, " tho' never in the wars I fancy you are not quite heart whole," he answered her with affected gaiety, but, as if wishing to change the discourse, suddenly spoke of Colonel Belgrave, who at present, he said, was absent from the regiment, occupied by his own feelings he observed not the glow which mantled the cheeks of his father and fifter at that name.

"You know Mrs. Belgrave," faid Amanda

endeavouring to regain composure. "Know her!" repeated he, with an involuntary figh, "oh yes!" Then after the pause of a few minutes, turning to his father, "I believe I have already informed you, Sir," he said, "that she is the daughter of your brave old friend, General Honeywood, who, I affure you, paid me no little attention on your account; his house is quite the temple of hospitality, and she the little presiding goddess." "She is happy, I hope," said Amanda." "Oh surely!" replied Oscar, little thinking of the secret motive his sister had for asking such a question, "she possesses what the world thinks necessary to constitute felicity."

Fitzalan had accounted to his son for leaving Devonshire, by saying the air had disagreed with Amanda, he told him of the friendship of Lord Cherbury, from which he said he trusted shortly to be able to have him promoted, "be assured my dear Oscar," he cried, "most willingly would I relinquish many of the comforts of life to attain the ability of hastening your advancement, or adding to your happiness." "My happiness," Oscar mournfully repeated, tears filled his eyes, he could no longer restrain them, and starting up hurried to a window. Amanda followed unutterably affected at his emotion, "Oscar, my

dear Oscar!" said she, as she flung her arms round his neck, " you diffress me beyond ex. pression." He sat down and leaning his head on her bosom, as she stood before him his tears fell through her handkerchief. " Oh heavens!" exclaimed Fitzalan, clasping his hands together, "what a fight is this-oh! my children, from your felicity alone could I ever derive any, if the hope I entertained of that felicity is disappointed the heart which cherished it must soon be filent," he arose and went to them, "yet" continued he, "amidst the anguish of this moment I feel a ray of pleasure at perceiving an affection fo strong and tender between you, it will be a mutual confolation and support when the feeble help and protection I can give is finally removed, oh! then, my Oscar," he proceeded, while he folded their united hands in his, " become the foothing friend and guardian of this dear, this amiable, this too lovely girl-let her not too feverely feel-too bitterly mourn-the loss of an unhappy father.

Amanda's tears began to stream, and Oscar's for a few minutes were increased. "Excuse me," at last, he said, making an effort to exert himself, to his father, " and be assured to the utmost of my ability I will ever obey your wishes.

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and fulfil your expectations, I am ashamed of the weakness I have betrayed—I will yield to it no more—forget therefore your having seen it, or at least remember it without pain, as I solemnly assure you, no effort on my part shall be untried to conquer it entirely, and now let the short time we have to continue together be devoted to cheerfulness."

Soon after, this he mentioned Parker's performance in Marlborough green, and proposed, as it was now the hour, taking Amanda there; the proposal was not objected to, and Ellen, who they knew would particularly delight in fuch an amusement, was committed to the care of Oscar's fervant, a finart young foldier, who escorted her with much gallantry; the green was extremely crouded, particularly with Officers, whose wandering glances were foon attracted to Amanda, as one of the most elegant girls present. Oscar was foon furrounded by them, and compelled, not only to gratify their curiofity, by discovering who the was, but their gallantry by introducing them Their compliments foon diverted her attention from the exhibition, and Ellen, who fat behind her on a bench, afforded infinite mirth by her remarks. "Pless her foul and poty too," the faid, "it was the most comical and wonder-

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wonderfulest sight she had ever seen in her porn tays." A string of red coats would have attended Amanda to the hotel had not Oscar prevented it.

The next day was devoted to visiting the public buildings, the park, and a few of the most beautiful places in its vicinage. On the ensuing morn Fitzalan and Amanda continued their journey to the north, where Oscar assured them he expected leave to visit them the following summer after the reviews were over; as he helped his sister into the carriage she put a pocket book into his hand (given by her father for that purpose) which contained something to replenish his purse.

Ere we attend the travellers, or rather while they are journeying along, we shall endeavour to account for the dejection of Oscar. Trans and should a manage of his his his and

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Charles a law orl CHAP. XI:-

service according to prepare of bilicon,

From the loud camp retired and noisy court,
In honourable ease and rural sport;
The remnant of his days he safely past,
Nor found they lagg'd too slow, nor slew too sast.
He made his wish with his estate comply,
Joyful to live, yet not assaid to die:
One child he had—a daughter chaste and fair,
His age's comfort, and his fortune's heir.

PRIOR.

SCAR's regiment, on his first joining it in Ireland, was quartered in Enniskellen, the corps was agreeable, and the inhabitants of the town hospitable and polite. He felt all the delight of a young and enterprizing mind, at entering, to what appeared to him, the road to glory

glory and pleasure; many of his idle mornings were spent in rambling about the country, sometimes accompanied by a party of officers, and sometimes alone.

In one of his folitary excursions, along the beautiful banks of Lough Erne, with a light fusee on his shoulders, as the woods, that almost descended to the very edge of the water abounded in game; after proceeding a few miles he felt quite exhausted by the heat, which, as it was now the middle of fummer was intense, at a little diffance he perceived an orchard, whole glowing apples promised a delightful repast, knowing that the fruit in many of the neighbouring places was kept for fale, he refolved on trying if any was to be purchased here, and accordingly opened a small gate and afcended thro' a grafs grown path in the orchard to a very plain white cottage, which flood upon a gently floping lawn, furrounded by a rude paling, he knocked against the door with his fusee and immediately a little rosy girl appeared, " tell me my pretty lass," cried he, "whether I can purchase any of the fine apples I see here." "Anan!" exclaimed the girl, with a foolish Ofcar glancing at the moment into the passage, saw from a half closed door nearly opposite the one at which he stood, a beautiful fair face peeping

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peeping out; he involuntarily started, and pushing afide the girl, made a step into the passage, the room door directly opened, and an elderly woman, of a genteel figure and pleasing countenance, appeared. "Good heaven!" cried Oscar, taking off his hat, and retreating, "I fear I have been guilty of the highest impertinence, the only apology I can offer for it is by faying it was not intentional, I am quite a stranger here, and having been informed most of the orchards. hereabouts contained fruit for fale, I intruded under that idea." "Your mistake, Sir," she replied, with a benevolent smile, "is too triffing to require an apology, nor shall it be attended with any disappointment to you."

She then politely shewed him into the parlour, where, with equal pleasure and admiration, he contemplated the fair being of whom before he had but a transient glance; she appeared to be scarcely seventeen, and was, both as to sace and figure, what a painter would have chosen to copy for the portrait of a little playful Hebe; tho' below even the middle size, she was formed with the nicest symmetry, her skin was of a dazzling fairness, and so transparent that the veins were clearly discernable; the softest blush of nature shaded her beautifully rounded cheeks,

cheeks, her mouth was finall and pouting, and whenever she smiled a thousand graces sported round it; her eyes were full and of a heavenly blue, foft-yet animated, giving, like the expression of her whole countenance, at once an idea of innocence, spirit, and fensibility; her hair, of the paleft and most glossy brown, hung carelessy about her, and, tho' drest in a loose morning gown of mullin, the poffeffed an air of fashion and even consequence: the easy manner in which she bore the looks of Oscar proclaimed her at once not unaccustomed to admiration, nor displeased with that she now received: for that Ofcar admired her could not but be visible, and he fometimes fancied he faw an arch fmile playing over her features, at the involuntary glances he directed towards her.

A fine basket of apples and some delicious cyder was brought to Oscar, and he sound his entertainer as hospitable in disposition as she was pleasing in conversation.

The beautiful interior of the Cottage by no means corresponded with the plainness of the exterior, the furniture was elegantly neat, and the room ornamented with a variety of fine prints and landscapes; a large folding glass door opened from it into a pleasant garden.

Adela,

Adela, fo was the charming young stranger called, chatted in the most lively and familiar terms, and at last running over to the basket tost the apples all about the table, and picking out the finest presented them to Oscar. 'Tis scarcely necessary to say he received them with emotion, but how transient is all sublunary blifs.—A cuckow clock, over Ofcar's head, by firiking three reminded him that he had paffed near two hours in the cottage. "Oh heavens!" cried he, flarting, "I have made a most unconscionable intrusion; you see, my dear ladies," bowing respectfully to both, "the consequence of being too polite and too fascinating." He repeated his thanks in the most animated manner, and fnatching up his hat departed, yet not without casting

"One longing, lingering, look behind."

The found of footsteps after him in the lawn made him turn, and he perceived the ladies had followed him thither; he stopped again to speak to them, and extolled the lovely prospect they had, from that eminence, of the lake and its scattered islands. "I presume," said Adela, handling the susee on which he leaned, "you

were trying your fuccess to day in fowling?" "Yes, but, as you may perceive, I have been unfuccessful." "Then I affure you" faid the, with an arch fmile, " there is choice game to be found in our woods." " Delicious game indeed!" cried he, interpreting the archness of her look, and animated by it to touch her hand, "but only tantalizing to a keen fportiman, who fees it elevated above his reach." "Come, come," exclaimed the old lady, with a fudden gravity, "we are detaining the gentleman." She took her fair companion by the arm and haftily turned to the cottage. Ofcar gazed after them a moment, then, with a half smothered sigh, defcended to the road. He could not help thinking this incident of the morning very like the novel adventures he had fometimes read to his fifter Amanda as she sat at work, and to complete the resemblance, thought he, I must fall in love with the little heroine. Ah! Ofcar, beware of fuch imprudence, guard your heart with all your care against tender impressions, till fortune has been more propitious to you; thus would my father speak, mused Oscar, and set his own misfortunes in terrible array before me, were he now present; well, I must endeavour to act as if he were here to exhort me. Heigh ho! proceeded

proceeded he, shouldering his susee, glory, for some time to come must be my mistress.

The next morning the fusee was again taken down and he fallied out, carefully avoiding the officers, left any of them should offer to accompany him, for he felt a strange reluctance to their participating either the smiles of Adela or the apples of the old lady. Upon his arrival at the orchard, finding the gate open, he advanced a few steps up the path and had a glimpse of the cottage, but no object was visible. Oscar was too modest to attempt entering it uninvited, he therefore turned back, yet often cast a look behind him, no one, however, was to be feen; he now began to feel the heat oppressive and himfelf fatigued with his walk, and fat down upon a moss covered stone, on the margin of the lake, at a little distance from the cottage, beneath the spreading branches of a hawthorn, his hat and fusee were laid at his feet, and a cool breeze from the water refreshed him; upon its smooth furface a number of boats and small sail vessels were now gliding about in various directions, and enlivened the enchanting prospect which was spread upon the bosom of the lake: from contemplating it he was fuddenly roufed by the warble of a female voice; he ftarted, turned and

and beheld Adela just by him. "Bless me!" cried fhe, " who would have thought of feeing you here, why you look quite fatigued, and, I believe, want apples to day as much as you did yesterday." Then sitting down on the seat he had refigned the toffed off her bonnet, declaring it was insupportably warm, and began rummaging a finall work bag she held on her arm. Ofcar fnatching the bonnet from the ground, Adela, flung apples into it, observing it would make an excellent basket. He sat down at her feet and never perhaps felt fuch a variety of emotions as at the present moment, his cheeks glowed with a brighter colour, and his eyes were raised to hers with the most ardent admiration, yet not to them alone could he confine the expression of his feelings, they broke in half formed fentences from his lips, which Adela heard with the most perfect composure, desiring him either to eat or pocket his apples quickly, as the wanted her bonnet, being in a great hurry to return to the cottage, from which she had made a kind of ftolen march. The apples were instantly committed to his pocket and he was permitted to tye on the bonnet. A depraved man might have misinterpreted the gaiety of Adela, or at least endeavoured to take advantage

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of it, but the facred impression of virtue, which nature and education had stamped upon the heart of Oscar, was indelibly fixed, and he neither suspected, nor, for worlds, would have attempted injuring the innocence of Adela; he beheld her (in what indeed was a true light, as a little playful nymph whose actions were the offspring of innocence.

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"I affure you" exclaimed she rising, "I am very loth to quit this pleasant seat, but if I make a much longer delay I shall find the lady of the cottage in anxious expectation." May I advance," said Oscar, as he pushed open the gate for her. "If you do" replied she, "the least that will be said from seeing us together is that we were in search-of each other the whole of the morning." "Well" cried Oscar laughing at this careless speech, "and if they do say so it would not be doing me injustice." "Adieu, adieu," said she, waving her hand, "not another word for a kingdom."

What a compound of beauty and giddiness is it, thought Oscar, watching her till she entered the cottage. As he returned from the sweet spot he met some labourers, from whom he enquired concerning its owner, and learned she was a respectable widow lady of the name of Marlow.

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On Ofcar's return from Ennishellen, he heard from the Officers that General Honeywood, an old veteran, who had a fine estate about fourteeen miles from the town, was that morning to pay his compliments to them, and that cards had been left for a grand seté and ball, which he annually gave on the first of July, to commemorate one of the glorious victories of King William. Every perfon of any sashion in or about the neighbourhood was on such occasions sure of an invitation, and the officers were pleased with theirs, as they had for sometime wished for an opportunity of seeing the General's daughter, who was very much admired.

The general, like a true veteran, retained an enthusiastic attachment for the profession of arms, to which not only the morning but the meridian of his life had been devoted, and which he had not quitted till compelled by a debilitated constitution. Seated in his paternal mansion he began to experience the want of a faithful companion, who would heighten the enjoyments of the tranquil hour, and sooth the infirmities of age: this want was soon supplied by his union with a young lady in the neighbourhood, whose only dowry was innocence and beauty; from the great disparity of their ages it was concluded she had married for con-

convenience, but the tenor of her conduct changed this opinion, by proving the General poffeffed her tenderest affections, a happier couple were not known; but this happiness was terminated as fuddenly as fatally by her death, which happened two years after the birth of her daughter; all the General's love was then centered in her child. Many of the ladies in the neighbourhood, induced by the well known felicity his lady had enjoyed, or by the largeness of his fortune, made attempts to engage him again in matrimonial toils. but he fought thy of them al', folemnly declaring "he would never bring a step mother over his dear girl." In her infancy she was his plaything, and as she grew up, his comfort; caressed, flattered, adored, from her childhood, she scarcely knew the meaning of harfhness and contradiction; a naturally fweet disposition, and the superintending care of an excellent woman, prevented any pernicious effect from such excessive indulgence as the received; to difguife, or duplicity, the was a perfect stranger, her own feelings were never concealed, and others fhe supposed equally fincere in revealing theirs; true, the open avowal of her regard or contempt often incurred the imputation of imprudence, but had the even heard it the would only have laughed at it, for the General declared

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declared whatever she said was right, and her own heart assured her of the innocence of her intentions. As she grew up the house again became the seat of gaiety, the General, the very infirm, felt his convivial spirit revive, he delighted in the society of his friends, and could still

Shoulder his crutch, and shew how fields were won!

Ofcar, actuated by an impulse, which if he could, he, at least, did not strive to account for, continued daily to parade before the orchard, but without again seeing Adela.

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At length the day for General Honeywood's entertainment arrived, and the Officers, accompanied by a large party, set off early for Woodlawn, the name of the General's seat, it was situated on the borders of the lake, where they sound barges waiting to convey them to a small island, which was the scene of the morning's amusement; the breakfast was laid out amidst the ruins of an ancient building, which, from the venerable remains of its gothic elegance, was most probably, in the days of religious enthusiasm, the seat of sacred piety: the old trees in groups formed a thick canopy over head, and the ivy that crept along the walls filled up many of the niches where

where the windows had formerly been, those that fill remained open, by descending to the ground, afforded a most enchanting prospect of the lake; the long succession of arches which composed the body of the chapel were in many places covered with creeping moss, and scattered over with wall sowers, blue hair bells, and other spontaneous productions of nature, while between them were placed seats and breakfast tables, ornamented in a fanciful manner.

The officers experienced a most agreeable surprise on entering, but how inferior was their feelings, to the fensations which Oscar felt, when introduced with the party by the General to his daughter, he beheld in Miss Honeywood the lovely Adela. She feemed to enjoy his furprife, and Mrs. Marlowe, from the opposite side of the table, beckoned him to her with an arch look, he few round and she made room for him by heralf, " well my friend, " cried she, " do you think you shall find the General's fruit as tempting as mine." "Ah I" exclaimed Ofcar, "half fighing, half fmiling, "hesperian fruit, I fear, which I can never hope to obtain." Adela's attention during breakfast was too much engrossed by the company to allow her to notice Oscar more than y a few hasty words and smiles. There being

no dancing till the evening the company after breakfast dispersed according to their various inclinations.

The island was diversified with little acclivities, and scattered over with wild shrubs which embalmed the air; temporary arbours of laurel, intermingled with lilies, were erected and laid out with fruits, ices, and other refreshments; upon the edge of the water a marquee was pitched for the regimental band, which Colonel Belgrave had politely complimented the General with; a flag was hoisted on it, and upon a low eminence a few small field pieces were mounted, attendants were every where dispersed, drest in white streamers, ornamented with a profusion of orange coloured ribbons, the boatmen were dreffed in the same livery, and the barges, in which feveral of the party went to visit the other islands, made a picturefue appearance with their gay streamers fluttering in the breeze; the music, now softly dying away upon the water, now gradually fwelling on the breeze and echoed back by the neighbouring hills, added to the pleasures of the scene

Ofear followed the footsteps of Adela, but at the very moment on which he saw her disengaged from a large party, the General hollowed to him from a shady bank on which he sat, Oscar could general extending his hand gave him a cordial squeeze, and welcomed him as the son of a brave man he had once intimately known. "I recollected the name of Fitzalan," faid he, " the moment I heard it mentioned, and had the happiness of learning from Colonel Belgrave I was not mistaken in believing you to be the son of my old friend." He now made several inquiries concerning Fitzalan, and the affectionate manner in which he mentioned him was truly pleasing to Osear. "He had once," he said, "saved his life at the imminent danger of his own, and it was an obligation while that life remained he never could forget."

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Like Don Guzman in Gil Blas, the General delighted in fighting over his battles, and now proceeded to enumerate many incidents which happened during the American war, when he and Fitzalan served in the same regiment. Oscar could well have dispensed with such an enumeration, but the General, who had no idea that he was not as much delighted in listening as he was in speaking, still went on. Adela had been watching them some time, her patience at length, like Oscar's, being exhausted she ran forward and told her father "he must not detain him another."

another minute for they were going upon the lake, and you know papa " cried she, " against we come back you can have have all your battles arranged in proper form, tho' by the bye I don't think it is the business of an old foldier to intimidate a young one with such dreadful tales of iron The General called her a faucy wars. baggage, kiffed her with rapture, and faw her trip off with his young friend, who feized the favourable opportunity to engage her for the first About four the company fet in the evening. affembled in the Abbey to dinner, the band played during the repast, the toasts were proclaimed by found of trumpet, and answered by an immediate discharge from the mount. At fix the ladies returned to Woodlawn to change their dreffes for the ball, and now

" Awful beauty put on all its charms."

Tea and coffee were served in the respective rooms, and by eleven the ball room was completely crowded with company, at once brilliant and lively, particularly the gentlemen, who were not a little elevated by the General's potent libations to the glorious memory of him whose victory they were celebrating.

Adela

Adela, adorned in a stile superior to what Oscar had yet seen, appeared more lovely than he had even at first thought her; her dress, which was of thin mussin spangled, was so contrived as to give a kind of zerial lightness to her sigure. Oscar reminded her of the promise of the morning at the very moment the colonel approached for the purpose of engaging her, she instantly informed him of her engagement to Mr. Fitzalan. "Mr. Fitzalan!" repeated the Colonel, with the haughty air of a man who thought he had reason to be offended, "he has been rather precipitate indeed, but, tho' we may envy, who shall wonder at his anxiety to engage Miss Honeywood."

Dancing now commenced, and the elegant figure of Adela never appeared to greater advantage, the transported General watched every movement, and, "incomparable by Jove!—what a sweet angel she is!" were expressions of admiration which involuntarily broke from him in the pride and fondness of his heart. Ofcar too, whose figure was remarkably fine, shared his admiration, and he declared to Colonel Belgrave, he did not think the world could produce such another couple, this affertion was by no means pleasing to the Colonel, he possessed as much vanity perhaps as ever fell to the share of a young

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belle, conscious of perfections, and detested the idea of having any competitor (at least such a powerful one as Ofcar) in the good graces of the ladies. Adela having concluded the dance complained of fatigue and retired to an alcove whither Ofcar followed her, the windows commanded a view of the lake, the little island and the ruined abbey; the moon in full splendour cast her silvery light over all those objects, giving a softness to the landscape even more pleating than the glowing charms it had derived from the radiancy of day. Adela in dancing had dropped the bandeau from her hair, Oscar took it up and still retained it, Adela now stretched forth her hand to take .it; "allow me" cried he, gently taking her hand, "to keep it, to-morrow you would cast it away as a trisle, but I would treasure it as a relique of inestimable value, let me have some memento of the charming hours I have past to day."- "Oh! a truce," faid Adela, "with fuch expressions," (who did not however oppose his putting her bandeau in his bosom) "they are quite common place, and have already been repeated to hundreds, and will again I make no doubt." " This is your opinion." "Yes really." "Oh! would to heaven" exclaimed Ofcar, "I durst convince you how mistaken a one it is." Adela, laughing, assured him

him that would be a difficult matter. Ofcar grew pensive, "I think," cried he, " if oppressed by missortune I should of all places on earth like a seclusion in the old Abbey." "Why really" said Adela, " it is tolerably calculated for an hermitage, and if you take a solitary whim I beg I may be apprized of it in time, as I should receive peculiar pleasure in preparing your mostly couch and srugal fare." "The reason for my liking it," replied he, "would be the prospect I should have from it of Woodlawn." "And does Woodlawn" asked Adela, "contain such particular charms as to render a view of it so very delightful.

At this moment they were summoned to call a new dance, a summons perhaps not agreeable to either, as it interrupted an interesting têté-a-têté. The Colonel engaged Adela for the next set, and tho' Oscar had no longer an inclination to dance, to avoid particularity, he stood up and with a young lady who was esteemed extremely handsome. Adela, as if fatigued, no longer moved with animation, and suddenly interrupted the Colonel in a gallant speech he was making her, to inquire "if he thought Miss O'Neal (Oscar's partner) pretty—so very pretty as she was generally thought?" The Colonel was

too keen not to discover at once the motive which fuggested this inquiry. "Why faith," cried he, after examining Mifs O'Neal fome minutes thro' an opera glass, " the girl has charms, but so totally eclipsed at present (looking languishingly at Adela) in my eyes that I cannot do them the justice they may perhaps merit, Fitzalan, however, by the homage he pays her, feems as if he would make up for the deficiency of every other person." Adela turned pale, and took the first opportunity of demanding her bandeau from Oscar, he, smiling, refused it, declaring it was a trophy of the happiness he had enjoyed that day, and that the General should have informed her a foldier never relinquished such a glorious memento, "Refign mine," replied Adela, " and procure one from Miss O'Neal. " " No!" cried he, "I would not pay her charms and my own fincerity so bad a compliment as to ask what I should not in the least degree value." Adela's spirits revived, and she repeated her request no more.

The dancing continued after supper, with little intermission, till seven, when the company repaired to the saloon to breakfast, after which they dispersed. The General particularly and affectionately bid Oscar farewell, and charged him

him to confider Woodlawn as his head-quarters, "be affured," faid the good natured old man, the fon of my brave, worthy, and long respected friend, will ever be valuable to my heart and welcome to my home, and would to heaven, in the calm evening of life, your father and I had pitched our tents nearer each other."

From this period Oscar became almost an inmate of his house, and the General shortly grew so attached to him, that he selt unhappy if deprived of his society; the attentions he received from Oscar were such as an affectionate son would pay a tender sather, he supported his venerable friend whenever he attempted to walk, attended him in all the excursions he made about his domain, read to him when he wanted to be bulled to steep, and listened, without betraying any symptoms of satigue, to his long and often truly tiresome stories of sormer battles and campaigns: in paying these attentions Oscar obeyed the dictates of gratitude and esteem, and also gratisted a benevolent disposition, happy in being able

the favorite file fets verred almost every evening.

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To rock the gradle of declining age. "

But his time was not for entirely engroffed by the General as to prevent his having many hours to devote to Adela, with her he alternately converfed, read, and fung, rambled with her through romantic paths, or rode along the beautiful borders of Lough Erne, was almost her constant efcort to all the parties the went to in the neighbourhood, and frequently accompanied her to the hovels of wretchedness, where the woes which extorted the loft tear of commileration he law amply relieved by her generous hand; admiring her as he did before how impossible was it for Oscar, in those dangerous têté-a-têté's, to result the progress of a tender passion-a passion, however, confined (as far at least as filence could confine it) to his own heart. The confidence which he thought the General reposed in him, by allowing such an intercourse with his daughter, was too facred in his estimation to be abused, but the his honour refished, his health yielded to his feelings but constant to entable of

Adelz, from delighting in company, suddenly took a pensive turn, she declined the constant society she had hitherto kept up, and seemed in a solitary ramble with Oscar to enjoy more pleasure than the gayest party appeared to afford her, the favorite spot they visited almost every evening,

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was a path on the margin of the lake, at the foot. of a woody mountain, here often feated they viewed the fun finking behind the opposite hills, and while they enjoyed the benignancy of hisdeparting beams, beheld them tinge the trembling waves with gold and purple; the low whiftle of. the ploughman returning to his humble cottage, the plaintive carol of birds from the adjacent. grove, and the low bleating of cattle from paltures which swelled above the water, all these, by giving the foftest and most pleasing charms, of nature to the hour, contrived to touch yet: more fenfibly, hearts already prepoffeffed in favour of each other. Adela would fometimes fing a. little fimple air, and careleffly leaning on the arm. of Ofear appear to enjoy perfect felicity; not for poor Ofcar, the feelings of his foul at these moments trembled on his lips and to repress them. was agony.

An incident soon occurred which endeared him: yet more to the General, driving one day in a low phaeton along a road cut over a mountain, the horses, frightened by a sudden siring from the lake, began rearing in the most frightful manner, the carriage stood near a tremendous precipice, and the servants, appalled by terror, had not power to move. Ofcar saw that nothing

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but an effort of desperate resolution could keep them from destruction, he leaped out and rushing before the horses seized their heads at the imminent hazard of being tumbled down the precipice. on whose very verge he stood; the servants a little relieved from their terror hastened to his affiftance, the traces were cut, and the poor General, whose infirmities had weakened his spirits, conveyed home in almost a state of infenfibility. Adela, perceiving him from her dreffing room window, flew down, and, learning his danger, fell upon his neck in an agony of mingled joy and terror, her careffes foon revived him, and as he returned them his eyes eagerly fought his deliverer. Ofcar stood near with mingled tenderness and anxiety in his looks, the General took his hand, and whilft he pressed it along with Adela's to his bosom tears fell on them.-" You are both my children!" he exclaimed, "the children of my love, and from your felicity I must derive mine." This expresfion Oscar conceived to be a mere effusion of gratitude, little thinking what a project relative to him had entered the General's head, who had first, however, consulted and learned from his daughter it would be agreeable to her. generous, fome will fay romantic, old man, felt for

for Ofcar the most unbounded love and gratitude, and as the best proof of both he resolved to bestow on this young foldier his rich and lovely heirefs, who had acknowledged to her father her predeliction for him. He knew his birth to be noble, his disposition amiable, and his spirit brave, besides by this union he should secure the society of Adela, he wished her married, yet dreaded whenever that event took place he should be deprived of her, but Ofcar, he supposed bound to him by gratitude would unlike others accede to his wishes of residing at Woodlawn during his lifetime, his project he refolved on communicating to Colonel Belgrave, whom, on Ofcar's account, he regarded, as Ofcar had faid (what indeed he believed) that he was partly indebted to him for. his commission.

What a thunder stroke was this to Belgrave, who arrived at Woodlawn the morning after the resolution was finally settled, and was asked to accompany the General, about a little business, to the summer house in the garden; poor Oscar trembled, he selt a presentiment he should be the subject of discourse, and had no doubt but the General meant to complain to Colonel Belgrave, as a person who had some authority over him, about his great particularity to Miss Honeywood.

K 6.

Rage,

Rage, envy, and furprife, kept the Colonel filent fome minutes after the General had ended speaking, distinulation then came to his aid, and he attempted, the in faltering accents, to express his admiration of fuch generofity, yet to bestow fuell à treasure, so inestimable, on such a man, when to many of equal rank and fortime fighed for its possession; ugon a man too; or rather a boy, from whose age it might be expected his affections would be variable. " Let me tell you, Colonel," faid the General, haftily interrupting him, and firiking his flick upon the ground, as he rose to return to the house, "there can be little danger of his affections changing when fuch a girl as Adela is his wife, to touch no more upon that subject I entreat you, but you must break the affair to the young fellow, for I should be in such a confounded flurry I should set all in confusion, and beat an alarm at the first onset."

The gloom and embarrassment which appeared in the countenance of the Colonel filled Oscar with alarms, he imagined them excited by friendship for him, after what the General had faid, he sighed to hear particulars, and longed for the first time to quit Woodlawn. The Colonel was indeed in a state of torture, he had long medi-

meditated the conquest of Adela, whose fortune and beauty rendered her a truly desirable object, to resign her without one effort for circumventing. Oscar was not to be thought of, to blast his promised joys, even if it did not lead to the accomplishment of his own wishes, he selt would give him some comfort, and he resolved to leave no means untried for doing so.

They set off early in the morning for Enniskellen, and Belgrave sent his servant on before them, that there might be no restraint on the conversation he sound Oscar inclined to begin.

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SINCERITY!

Luch as barrious

Thou first of virtues, let no mortal leave
Thy onward path, altho' the earth should gape
And from the gulf of hell, destruction cry
To take dissimulation's winding way.

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WELL Colonel" faid Ofcar, "I fancy I was not mistaken in thinking the General wanted to speak with you concerning me, I am convinced you will not conceal any particulars of a conversation it may be so essential to my honour to hear." "Why, faith," cried the Colonel, delighted to commence his operations, he was making a kind of complaint about you, tho' he acknowledges you a brave lad, yet hang him, he has not generosity enough to reward that

that bravery with his daughter, or any of his treasure." Heaven is my witness!" exclaimed the unsuspicious Oscar, " I never aspired to either, I always knew my paffion for his daughter as hopeless as fervent, and my esteem for him as difinterested as fincere, I would have sooner died than abused the confidence he reposed in me, by revealing my attachment, I fee, however, in future I must be an exile to Woodlawn." "Not so neither," replied the Colonel, "only avoid fuch particularity to the girl, I believe in my foul she has more pride than susceptibility in her nature, in your next visit therefore, which for that purpose I would have you foon make, declare, in a cavalier manner, your affections being engaged previous to your coming to Ireland, this declaration will fet all to rights with the General, he will no longer dread you on his daughter's account, you will be as welcome as ever to Woodlawn, and enjoy, during your continuance in the Country, the fociety you have hitherto been accustomed to." " No" faid Oscar, "I cannot affert so great a falsehood." "How ridiculous," replied the Colonel, " for heaven's fake, my dear boy, drop such romantic notions, I should be the last man in the world to defire you to invent a falsehood which could ininjure any one, but no priest in Christendom would blame you for this." "And suppose I venture it what will it do, but bind faster round my heart chains already too galling, and destroy in

the end all remains of peace.

"Faith, Fitzalan," faid the Colonel, "by the time you have had a few more love affairs with some of the pretty girls of this kingdom you will talk no more in this way, confider (and be not too (crupulous) how disagreeable it will be to refign the General's friendship, and the pleasing fociety you enjoyed at Woodlawn, besides it will appear strange to those who knew your former intimacy; in honour too you are bound to do as I defire you, for should the girl have been imprudent enough to conceive an attachment for you, this will certainly remove it, for pride would not allow its continuance after hearing of a favorite rival, and the General will be effentially ferved." " My dear Colonel," faid. Ofcar, his eyes fuddenly sparkling, "do you think she has been imprudent enough to conceive a partiality "I am fure" faid the Colonel, "that is a question I cannot positively answer, but, to give my opinion, I think from her gay unembarraffed manner she has not." "I suppose not indeed," cried Ofcar, mournfully fighing, "why then.

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then I should be guilty of a salsehood for a person who is already indifferent to me. " "I have sold you my reason," replied the Colonel, coldly to as you please." They were now both silent, but the conversation was soon renewed, and many arguments passed on both sides. Oscar's heart excetly savoured the Colonel's plan, as it promised the indulgence of Adela's society, to be an exile from Woodlawn was insupportable to his houghts, reason yielded to the vehemence of passen, and he at last fell into the snare the persidicular Belgrave had spread; thus, by a deviation from truth, forseiting the blessings a bounteous providence had prepared for him.

Oh! never let the child of integrity he feduced from the plain and undeviating path of fincerity, h! never let him hope by illicit means attain a real pleasure, the hope of obtaining by good through such means will, like a meteer the night, allure but to deteive.

Soon after his fatal promise to the Colonel, a li-devoted victim, he accompanied him to Wood was in the garden, and Ofcar trembling went to feek er, he found her fitting in a slower woven bourse

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objects framing a miniature of his fifter from

[&]quot; Herfelf the fairest flower, "

Meyer

Never had the looked more lovely, the natural bloom of her cheeks was heightened by the heat and glowed beneath the careless curls that fe over them, and her eyes, the moment the behel Ofcar, beamed with the foftest tenderness, the most bewitching sensibility. "My dear! dea Fitzalan ! " cried fhe, throwing afide the book in the had been reading, and extending her hand "I am fo glad to fee you, I hope you are com to take up your residence for some time at Wood lawn." "You hope," repeated Ofcar mount fully. I do indeed! but blefs me what is the matter, you are so pale and thin you look but we the shadow of yourself, or rather like a despairing or she shadow of yourself, or rather like a despairing or she she will be she met. " I am indeed unhappy!" I she she will be she willi cried Ofcar, "nor will you wonder at my bein he fo when I acknowledge, I at this present time feel a paffion which I must believe hopeless "Hopeless! well now I infift on being you confident, and then (smiling formewhat arehly) shall lee what reason you have to despair al "Agreed !" exclaimed Ofcar, " and now my story, " then pauling a minute he started up out " continued he, " "I find it impo fible to tell it-let this dear, this inestimal object, drawing a miniature of his fifter from h bofor thaticif the faired flower.

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olom, fpeak for me and declare, whether he who oves fuch a being can ever lose that love, or help being wretched at knowing it is without hope." Adela fnatched it haftily from him, and by a udden ftart betrayed her furprise, words indeed re inadequate to express her heart rending emoions as the contemplated the beautiful countenance of her imaginary rival; and was Ofcar then—that Ofcar whom the adored—whole happiness she had hoped to constitute—whose fortune he delighted to think the should advance— eally attached to another; alas! too true he was-of the attachment she held a convincing proof in her hand, the examined it again and il gain, and in its mild beauties thought fhe beheld firiking proof of the superiority over the charms the herself possessed; the roses for sook her cheeks, mist overspread her eyes, and with a shivering corror fhe dropped it from her hand. Ofcar and quitted the arbour to conceal his agonies. Well" faid he, now returning, with forced almness, "is it not worthy of inspiring the affion I feel." Unable to answer him, she would only point to the place where it lay, and aftened to the house. "Sweet image!" cried all Oscar, taking it from the ground, "what an unbeworthy purpose have I made you answer-alas!

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all is now over Adela my Adela lis loft for ever-loft-ah heavens I had I ever hopes of pol feffing her- oh no! to fuch happiness never did I dare to look forward." Adela on reach ing the parlour which opened into the garden found her father there; "ah! you little baggage," "do I not deserve a kis for not disturbing you têté-a-têté, where is that young rogue Fitzalan!" "I beg. I entreat, fir," faid Adela, whose tean could no longer be reftrained, " you will never to mention him again to me, too much has already been faid about him." " Nay, prithee, my little girl," exclaimed the General, regarding her with surprise, "cease the sighs and tears, and tell me what's the matter. " " I am hurt" replied the, in a voice fearcely articulate, " that so much has been said about Mr. Fitzalan, who I can never report in any other light than that of a common acquaintance." The Colonel who had purposely lingered about the wood now entered. Adela flacted, and precipitately retreated through another door. " Faith my dear Colonel " faid the General, "I am glat you are come, the boy and girl have had a little by skirmish, but like other love quarrels I suppose it will foon be made up, fo let me know how the lad hore the announcement of his good fortune a It

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It fills a rational mind with regret," exclaimed he Colonel, feating himfelf gravely and inwardly ejoicing at the fuccess of his ftratagem, to find uch a fatality prevalent among mankind as makes hem reject a proffered good, and figh for that which is unattainable; like wayward children, eglecting their fports to purfue a rainbow, and Wery true indeed," faid the General, "very scellent upon my word, I doubt if the Chaplain f a regiment, ever delivered fuch a pretty iece of morality; but, dear Colonel, " laying is hand on his knee, " what did the boy fay?" I am forry, fir, " he replied, " that what I ave just faid is so applicable to him, he acknowdged the Lady's merit, extolled your generofity, at pleaded a prior attachment against accepting would bur offer, which even one more exalted would to tempt him to forego, the' he knows not wheder he will ever succeed in it." "The devil did?" exclaimed the General, as foon as ge and furprise would allow him to speak, "the tle impertinent puppy! the ungrateful young g! a prior attachment—reject my girl—my dela-who has had fuch fuitors already; fo, I ppose I shall have the whole affair blazed about country, I shall hear from every quarter how

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my daughter was refused, and by whom?-why by a little Enfign, whose whole fortune lies in his fword knot. - A fine game I have played truly; but if the jackanapes opens his lips about the matter, may powder be my poison if I do not trim his jacket for him!" "Dear General" faid the Colonel, " you may depend on his honour but even supposing he did mention the affair, furely you should know it would not be in his power to injure Miss Honeywood-amiable-accomplished-in short, possessed, as she is, of every perfection, I know men, at least one man, of confequence, both from birth and fortune, who has long fighed for her, and who would, if he recei-- ved the least encouragement, openly avow his fentiments. " "Well" cried the General, still panting for breath, "we will talk about him at some future time, for I am resolved on soon having my little girl married, and to her own liking too."

Ofcar and Adela did not appear till dinner time, both had been endeavouring to regain composure, but poor Ofcar had been far less successful than Adela in the attempt; not that she loved less for indeed her passion for him was of the tenderest nature, and she slattered herself with having inspired one equally ardent in his breast, sanctioned by

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father, fine thought it would conflitute the dicity of their lives, and looked forward with a enerous delight to the period when the should ender her beloved Fitzalan prosperous and indeendent: the disappointment she experienced, as he first she had ever met, fat heavy on her heart, ind the gay visions of youth were in one moment douded by melancholy; but her pride was asgreat as her sensibility, and as its powerful impulse pervaded her mind, the resolved to afford Ofcar no triumph by letting him witness her dejection, he therefore wiped away all traces of tears from her eyes, checked the vain figh that ffruggled at her heart, and dreffed herfelf with as much attention as ever; her heavy eyes, her colourless cheeks, however, denoted her feelings; the tried, as she sat at table, to appear chearful, but in vain, and on the removal of the cloth immediately refired, as no ladies were present

The General was a stranger to dissimulation, and as he no longer felt, he no longer treated Oscar with his usual kindness; when pale, trembling, and disordered, he appeared before him, he received him with a stern frown, and an air scarcely complaisant; this increased the agitation of Oscar, every feeling of his soul was in commotion, he was no longer the life of the company, their happinese

happiness and mirth formed a striking contra to his mifery and dejection, he felt a forlor wretch, a mere child of forrow and dependence scalding tears dropped from him as he bent over his plate, he could have curfed himfelf for fuch weakness, fortunately it was unnoticed in losing the General's attention he feemed to lose that of his guests, his fituation grew too irkfome to be borne, he arose unregarded, and a secret impulse led him to the drawing room. Here Adela, oppressed by the dejection of her spirits, had slung herfelf upon a couch and gradually funk into a flumber: Ofcar Repped lightly forward and gazed on her with a tenderness as exquisite as a mother would have felt in viewing her fleeping babe; her cheek, which rested on her fair hand, was tinged with a blufh, by the reflection of a crimfor curtain thro' which the fun darted, and the traces of a tear were yet differnable upon it. "Never!" cried Ofcar, with folded hands, as he hung over the interesting figure, "never may any tear, except that of foft fenfibility for the woes of others, bedew the cheek of Adela-perfect as her goodness be her felicity-may every bleffing she now enjoys he rendered permanent by that Power who smiles benignly upon innocence like hers.-Oh! Adela, he who now prays for your felicity never

never will lose your idea, he will cherish it in his heart, to meliorate his forrows, and, from the dreary path which may be appointed for him to tread, fometimes look back to happier scenes." Adela began to ftir, she murmured out some inarticulate words, and, fuddenly rifing from the couch, beheld the motionless form of Fitzalan; haughtily regarding him, the asked the meaning of fuch an intrusion. "I did not mean indeed to intrude, " faid he, " but when I came and found you can you wonder at my being fascinated to the fpot." The plaintive tone of his voice funk deep into Adela's heart, she fighed heavily, and turning away feated herfelf in a window. Ofcar followed, he forgot the character he had affumed in the morning, and gently feizing her hand preffed it to his bosom; at this critical minute, when mutual sympathy appeared on the point of triumphing over duplicity, the door opened, and Colonel Belgrave appeared; from the instant of Oscar's departure he had been on thorns to follow him fearful of the consequences of a teté-a-teté, and was attended by the rest of the gentlemen.

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Ofcar was determined on not flaying another night at Woodlawn, and declared his intention by asking Colonel Belgrave if he had any commands for Enniskellen, whither he meant to return

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immediately. "Why hang it boy," cried the General, in a rough grumbling voice, " fince you have staid so long you may as well stay the night, the clouds look heavy over the lake and threaten "No fir !" faid Ofcar, colouring and a ftorm. " fpeaking in the agitation of his heart, "the raging of a tempest would not make me stay." Adela fighed, but pride prevented her speaking. Fitzalan approached her, "Miss Honeywood-" faid he, he stopped-his voice was quite stifled. Adela, equally unable to speak, could only encourage him to proceed by a mild glance. " Left I should not-" refumed he, "have the happiness of again visiting Woodlawn, I cannot neglect this opportunity of affuring you, that the attention, the obligations, I have received in it, never can be forgotten by me; and that the feverest pang my heart could poffibly experience, would refult from thinking I loft any part of the friendship you. and the General honoured me with." Adela bent her head, and Ofcar, feeing that she either would not or could not speak, bowed to the General, and hurried from the room; the tears he had painfully suppressed gushed forth, and at the bottom of the stairs, he leaned against the banisters for support; while he cast his eyes around, as if bidding a melancholy farewell to the Cene

scene of former happiness, a hasty footstep advanced, he started, and was precipitately retreating, when the voice of the Butler stopped him; this was an old veteran, much attached to Ofcar, and his usual attendant in all his fowling and fishing parties; as he waited at tea he heard Ofcar's declaration of departing with furprife, and followed him for the purpose of expressing that and his concern :- "Why Lord now, Mr. Fitzalan," cried he, "what do you mean by leaving us fo oddly, but if you are so positive about going to Enniskellen to night, let me order Standard to be prepared for you." Ofcar for fome time had had the command of the stables, but knowing, as he did, that he had lost the General's favour, he could no longer think of taking those liberties which kindness had once invited him to, he wrung the hand of his humble friend, and, fnatching his hat from the hall table, darted out of the house: he ran till he came to the mountain path, on the margin of the lake; "never" cried he, diffractedly firiking his breaft, " shall I see her here again! oh! never, never, my beloved Adela! fhall your unfortunate Fitzalan wander with you thro' those enchanting fcenes, oh! how transient was his gleam of felicity! Jan. LafterWill moon was that course

Exhausted by the violence of his feelings he fell into a kind of torpid state against the side of the mountain, the shadows of night were thickened by a coming storm, a cold blast howled amongst the hills and agitated the gloomy waters of the lake, the rain, accompanied by sleet, began to fall, but the tempest raged unregarded around the child of sorrow, the wanderer of the night.—Adela alone

" Heard, felt, or feen,"

pervaded every thought. Some fishermen approaching to secure their boats drove him from this situation, and he slew to the woods which screened one side of the house; by the time he reached it the storm had abated, and the moon, with a watery lustre, breaking thro' the clouds, rendered, by her seeble rays, the surrounding and beloved scenes just visible.

Adela's chamber looked into the wood, and the light from it rivetted Ofcar to a spot exactly opposite the window, "my Adela!" he exclaimed, extending his arms as if she could have heard and flown into them, then dejectedly dropping them, she thinks not on such a forlorn wretch as me, oh! what comfort to lay my poor distracted head for

for one moment on her foft bosom, and hear her sweet voice speak pity to my tortured heart." Sinking with weakness from the conflicts of his mind, he fought an old roof-less root house in the centre of the wood, where he and Adela had often fat. "Well" faid he, as he flung himself upon the damp ground, " many a brave fellow has had a worse bed, but God particularly protects the unsheltered head of the soldier, and the afflicted." The twittering of the birds roused him from an uneafy flumber, or rather lethargy, into which he had fallen, and starting up he hastened to the road, fearful, as day was beginning to dawn, of being feen by any of General Honeywood's workmen: it was late ere he arrived at Ennifkellen, and before he gained his room he was met by some of the Officers, who viewed him with evident aftonishment; his regimentals were quite spoiled, his fine hair, from which the rain had washed all the powder, hung dishevelled about his shoulders, the feather of his hat was broken, and the diforder of his countenance was not less consuspicious than that of his dress; to their inquiries he stammered out something of a fall, and extricated himself with difficulty, from them.

In an obscure village fifteen miles from Enniskellen a detachment of the regiment lay, the L 3 Officer Officer who commanded it difliked his fituation extremely, but company being irkfome to Ofcar it was just such a one as he defired, and he obtained leave to relieve him; the agitation of his mind, aided by the effects of the storm he had been exposed to, was too much for his constitution: immediately on arriving at his new quarters he was seized with a violent sever, an Officer was obliged to be sent to do duty in his place, and it was long ere any symptom appeared which could flatter those who attended him with hopes of his recovery, when able to fit up he was ordered to return to Enniskellen, where he could be immediately under the care of the regimental Surgeon.

Oscar's servant accompanied him in the carriage, and as it drove slowly along he was agreeably surprised by a view of Mrs. Marlowe's orchard, he could not resist the wish of seeing her and making inquiries relative to the inhabitants of Woodlawn; for with Mrs. Marlowe, I should previously say, he had not only formed an intimacy, but a sincere friendship; she was a woman of the most pleasing manners, and to her superintending care Adela was indebted for many of the graces she possessed, and at her Cottage past many delightful hours with Oscar.

The evening was far advanced when Ofcar reached the orchard, and leaning on his fervant flowly walked up the hill; had a spectre appeared before the old Lady she could not have seemed more shocked than she now did, at the unexpected and emaciated appearance of her young friend,with all the tenderness of a fond mother, she pressed his cold hands between her own, and feated him by the cheerful fire which blazed on her hearth, then procured him refreshments that, joined to her conversation, a little revived his spirits; yet, at this moment the recollection of the first interview he ever had with her, recurred with pain to his heart: " our friends at Woodlawn I hope-" cried he, he paufed-but his eyes expressed the inquiry his tongue was unable to make. "They are well and happy," replied Mrs. Marlowe, "and you know, I suppose, of all that has lately happened there." "No, I know nothing, I am as one awoke from the flumbers of the grave." "Ere I inform you then," cried Mrs. Marlowe, "let me, my noble Ofcar, express my approbation, my admiration, of your conduct, of that difinterested nature which preferred the preservation of constancy to the splendid independency offered to your acceptance." "What fplendid independency did I refuse?" afked

asked Oscar, wildly staring at her. "That which the General offered. " " The General!" " Yes, and appointed Colonel Belgrave to declare his intentions." "Oh heavens!" exclaimed Ofcar, starting from his chair, "did the General indeed form such intentions, and has Belgrave then deceived me, he told me my attentions to Miss Honeywood were noticed and difliked-he filled my foul with unutterable anguish, and persuaded me to a falsehood which has plunged me into despair!" " He is a monster!" cried Mrs. Marlowe, "and you are a victim to his treachery." "Oh no! I will fly to the General and open my whole foul to him, at his feet I will declare the false ideas of honour which misled me, I shall obtain his for giveness, and Adela will yet be mine" "Alas! my child, faid Mrs. Marlowe, stopping him as he was hurrying from the room, " it is now too late, Adela can never be yours, the is married, and married unto Belgrave." Ofcar staggered back a few paces, uttered a deep groan, and fell senseles at her feet. Mrs. Marlowe's cries brought in his servant as well as her own to his affistance, he was laid upon a bed, but it was long ere he flewed any figns of recovery, at length opening his heavy eyes, he fighed deeply, and exclaimed, "fhe is loft to me for ever!"

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The fervants were dismissed and the tender hearted Mrs, Marlow knelt beside him, " oh ! my friend," faid- she, "my heart sympathizes in your forrow, but 'tis from your own fortitude, more than my fympathy, you must now derive resources of support.". "Oh! horrible" to know the cup of happiness was at my lips, and that it was my own hand dashed it from me." "Such alas!" faid Mrs. Marlowe, fighing as if touched at the moment with a fimilar pang of felf regret, "is the waywardness of mortals, too often do they deprive themselves of the blessings of a bounteous providence by their own, folly and imprudence—oh! my friend, born as you were, with a noble ingenuity of foul, never let that foul again be fullied by the smallest deviation from sincerity." "Do not aggravate my fufferings," faid Ofcar, "by dwelling on my error." "No, I would sooner die than be guilty of such barbarity, but admonition never finks so deeply on the heart as in the hour of trial; young, amiable as you are, life teems, I doubt not, with various bleffings for you-bleffings which you will kno how to value properly, for early disappointment. is the nurse of wisdom." "Alas !" exclaimed he "what bleffings?" "Those, at least," cried Mrs. Marlowe, " are in your own power, the L 5 peace

peace, the happiness, which ever proceeds from a mind conscious of having discharged the into its trials." " But do you think I will calmly fubmit to his baseness, "said Oscar, interrupting her, "no! Belgrave shall never triumph over me with impunity!" He started from the bed, and, rushing into the outer room, fnatched his fword from the table on which he had flung it at his entrance: Mrs. Marlowe caught his arm, "rafh young man!" exclaimed fhe, "whither would you go-is it to fcatter ruin and desolation around you-Iuppose your vengeance was gratified, would that reftore your happiness-think you, that Adela, the child of virtue and propriety, would ever notice the murderer of her husband, how unworthy foever that husband might be; or that the old General, who fo fondly planned your felicity, would forgive, if he could furvive the evils of his house, occasioned by you? The sword dropped from the trembling hand of Ofcar, "I have been blameable," cried he, " in allowing myself-to be transported to such an effort of revenge, I forgot every thing but that, and as to my own ife, deprived of Adela, it appears fo gloomy as to be scarcely worth preserving."

Mrs

Mrs. Marlowe feized this moment of yielding foftness to advise and reason with him, her tears mingled with his, as she listened to his relationof Belgrave's perfidy; tears augmented by reflecting, that Adela, the darling of her care and her affections, was also a victim to it; she convinced Ofcar, however, that it would be prudent to confine the fatal fecret to their own breafts; the agitation of his mind was too much for the weak state of his health, the fever returned, and he felt unable to quit the Cottage: Mrs. Marlowe prepared a bed for him, trufting he would foon be able to remove, but she was disappointed, it was long ere Oscar could quit the bed of fickness; she watched over him with maternal tenderness, while he, like a blasted flower, feemed haftening to decay.

The General was stung to the soul by the rejection of his offer, which he thought would have inspired the soul of Oscar with rapture and gratitude, never had his pride been so serverely wounded, never before had he selt humbled in his own eyes; his mortifying reslections the Colonel soon sound means to remove by the most delicate slattery and the most affiduous attention, assuring the General that his conduct merited not the censure, but the applause of the

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world: the fophistry which can reconcile us to ourselves is truly pleasing, the Colonel gradually became a favorite, and when he infinuated his attachment for Adela, was affured he should have all the General's interest with her, he was now more anxious than ever to have her advantageously settled, there was something so humiliating in the idea of her being rejected, that it drove him at times almost to madness; the Colonel possessed all the advantages of fortune, but these weighed little in his favour with the General, (whose notions we have already proved very disinterested) and much less with his daughter, on the first overture about him she requested the subject might be entirely dropped, the mention of love was extremely painful to her, wounded by her disappointment, in the severest manner, her heart required time to heal it, her feelings delicacy confined to her own bosom, but her languid eyes, and faded cheeks, denoted their poignancy; she avoided company, and was perpetually wandering thro' the romantic and folitary paths which she and Oscar had trod together, here more than ever she thought of him, and feared she had treated her poor companion unkindly, she saw him oppressed with fadness, and yet she had driven him from her

her by the repulsive coldness of her manner-a manner too, which, from its being fo suddenly assumed, could not fail of conveying an idea of her disappointment, this hurt her delicacy as much as her tenderness, and she would have given worlds, had the poffeffed them, to recall the time when she could have afforded consolation to Ofcar, and convinced him, that folely as a friend the regarded him. The Colonel was not discouraged by her coldness, he was in the habit of conquering difficulties, and doubted not he should overcome any she threw in his way; he fometimes, as if by chance, contrived to meet her in her rambles, his conversation was always amufing and confined within the limits she had prescribed, but his eyes, by the tenderest expression, declared the pain he suffered from this prescription, and secretly pleased Adela, as it convinced her of the implicit deference he paid to her will.

Some weeks had elapsed fince Oscar's voluntary exile from Woodlawn, and sanguine as were the Colonel's hopes, he found without a stratagem they would not be realized: (at least as soon as he expected) fertile in invention, he was not long in concerting one; he followed Adela one morning into the garden, and found

found her reading in the arbour, she laid aside the book at his entrance, and they chatted for some time on indifferent subjects; the Colonel's fervant at last appeared with a large pacquet of letters, which he presented to his master, who, with an hefitating air, was about putting them into his pocket, when Adela prevented him, "make no ceremony Colonel" faid she, "with me, I fhall refume my book till you have perused your letters, the Colonel bowed for her permission and began; her attention was foon drawn from her book by the fudden emotion he betrayed, he started, and exclaimed "oh! heavens what a wretch!" then, as if fuddenly recollecting his fituation, looked at Adela, appeared confused, stammered out a few inarticulate words, and refumed his letter; when finished he seemed to put it into his pocket, but in reality dropped it at his feet for the basest purpose, he ran over the remainder of the letters and rifing entreated Adela to excuse his leaving her so abruptly, to answer some of them; soon after his departure Adela perceived an open letter lying at her feet, the immediately took it up with an intention of returning to the house with it, when the fight of her own name, in capital letters, and in the well known hand of Fitzalan, ftruck her fight, fhe

the threw the letter on a table, a universal tremor feized her, she would have given any confideration to know why she was mentioned in a correspondence between Belgrave and Fitzalan, her eye involuntarily glanced at the letter, she faw some words in it which excited still more frongly her curiofity, it could no longer be repressed, she matched it up, and read as follows:

" TO COLONEL BELGRAVE.

You accuse me of insensibility to, what you call, the matchless charms of Adela, an accusation I acknowledge I merit, but why, because I have been too susceptible to those of another, which, in the fond estimation of a lover, (at least) appear infinitely superior. The General's offer was certainly a most generous and flattering one, and has gratified every feeling of my foul, by giving me an opportunity of facrificing at the shrine of love, ambition, and self-interest; my difinterested conduct has confirmed me in the affections of my dear girl, whose vanity I cannot help thinking a little elevated by the triumph I have told her she obtained over Adela; but this is excufeable indeed when we confider the object I relinquished for her. Would to heave

heaven the General was propitious to your wishes, it would yield me much happiness to see you, my first and best friend, in possession of a treasure you have long sighed for; I shall, no doubt, receive a long lecture from you for letting the affair relative to Adela be known, but faith I could not resist telling my Charmer; Heaven grant discretion may seal her lips, if not I suppose I shall be summoned to formidable combat with the old General. Adieu! and believe me,

Dear Colonel,

ever Yours,

OSCAR FITZALAN.

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"Wretch!" cried the agitated Adela, dropping the letter, (which it is fcarce necessary to say was an infamous forgery) in an agony of grief and indignation, " is this the base return we meet for our wishes to raise you to prosperity; oh! cruel Fitzalan, is it Adela, who thought you so amiable and who never thoroughly valued wealth till she believed it had given her the power of conducing to your felicity, whom you hold up as an object of ridicule, for unfeeling vanity

vanity to triumph over." Wounded pride and tenderness raised a whirl of contending passions in her breaft, she funk upon the bench, her head rested on her hand, and sighs, and tears, burft from her; the now resolved to inform Fitzalan the knew the baseness of his conduct, and fling his heart with keen reproaches, now resolved to pass it over in silent contempt; while thus fluctuating the Colonel foftly advanced and stood before her, in the tumult of her mind the had quite forgot the probability of his returning, and involuntarily screamed and started at his appearance; by her confusion she doubted not but he would suspect her of having perused the fatal letter, oppressed by the idea, her head funk on her bosom, and her face was covered with blushes. " What a careless fellow I am," aid the Colonel, taking up the letter, which he then pretended to perceive, he glanced at Adela, " curse it!" continued he, "I would rather have had all the letters read than this one." He suspects me, thought Adela, her blushes faded, and the fell back on her feat, unable to support the oppressive idea of having acted against the rules of propriety. Belgrave flew to support her, " lovelieft of women," he exclaimed, with all the foftness he could assume, "what means

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means this agitation? "I have been fuddenly affected," answered Adela, a little recovering, and, rifing, the motioned to return to the house. "Thus" refumed the Colonel, " you always fly me, but go, Miss Honeywood, I have no right, no attraction, indeed to detain you, yet, be affured," and he fummoned a tear to his aid, while he pressed her hand to his bosom, "a heart more truly devoted to you than mine, you can never meet; but I fee the subject is painful, and again I resume the rigid filence you have imposed on me, go then, most lovely and beloved, and, fince I dare not aspire to a higher, allow me, at least, the title of your friend." " Moft willingly," faid Adela, penetrated by his gentleness; she was now tolerably recovered, and he prevailed on her to walk instead of returning to the house, she felt foothed by his attention, his infiduous tongue dropped manna, he gradually stole her thoughts from painful recollections; the implicit respect he paid her will flattered her wounded pride, and her gratitude was excited by knowing he refented the difrespectful mention of her name in Fitzalan's letter, in short, she felt esteem and respect for him, contempt and refentment for Ofcar. The Colonel was too penetrating not to discover her sentiments, and too

too artful not to take advantage of them; had Adela indeed obeyed the real feelings of her heart fhe would have declared against marrying, but pride urged her to a ftep which would prove to Fitzalan his conduct had not affected her; the General rejoiced at obtaining her confent, and received a promile that for fome time she hould not be separated from him. The most folendid preperations were made for the nuptials, but tho' Adela's refentment remained unabated, he foon began to wish she had not been so precipitate in obeying it, an involuntary repugnance role in her mind against the connexion she was about forming, and honour alone kept her from eclining it for ever: her beloved friend, Mrs. Marlowe, supported her throughout the trying ecasion, and, in an unauspicious hour, Adela gave her hand to the perfidious Belgrave.

About a fortnight after her nuptials she heard from some of the Officers of Oscar's illness, she blushed at his name; "faith" cried one of them, "Mrs. Marlowe is a charming woman, it is well he got into such shug quarters, I really believe elsewhere he would have given up the ghost." "Poor fellow," said Adela, sighing heavily, yet without being sensible of it. Belgrave rose, he caught her eyes, a dark frown

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rown loured on his brow, and he looked as if he would pierce into the recesses of her heart; the shuddered, and, for the first time, felt the tyranny she had imposed upon herself; as Mrs. Marlowe chose to be filent on the subject, the resolved not to mention it to her, but she sent every day to invite her to Woodlawn, expecting by this to hear fomething of Ofcar, but the was disappointed. At the end of a fortnight Mrs. Marlowe made her appearance, the looked pale and thin, Adela gently reproved her for her long absence, trusting this would oblige her to alledge the reason of it, but no such thing; Mrs. Marlowe began to converse on indifferent subjects, Adela fuddenly grew peevifh, and fullenly fat at her work.

In a few days after Mrs. Marlowe's visit, Adela, one evening immediately after dinner, ordered her carriage to the Cottage; by this time she supposed Oscar had left it, and flattered herself, in the course of conversation, she should learn whether he was perfectly recovered ere he departed; proposing to surprise her friend, she stole by a winding path to the Cottage, and softly opened the parlour door, but what were her feelings when she perceived Oscar sitting at the fire side with Mrs. Marlowe, engaged in

deep conversation; she stopped, unable to advance, Mrs. Marlowe embraced and led her forward, the emotions of Oscar were not inferior to Adela's, he attempted to rife, but could not, a glance from the expressive eyes of Mrs. Marlowe, which feemed to conjure him not to yield to a weakness which would betray his real fentiments to Adela, somewhat reanimated him, he rose and tremblingly approached her, "allow me, Madam, "cried he, "to—" the sentence died unfinished on his lips, he had not power to offer congratulations on an event which had probably destroyed the happiness of Adela as well as his own. "Oh! a truce with compliments," faid Mrs. Marlowe, forcing herself to assume a cheerful air, "prithee, good folks, let us be feated, and enjoy, this cold evening, the comforts of a good fire," she forced the trembling, the almost fainting, Adela, to take some wine, and, by degrees, the flutter of her spirits and Oscar's abated; but the sadness of their countenances, the anguish of their souls, increased, the cold formality, the diffant referve, they both affumed, filled each with forrow and regret; fo pale, fo emaciated, so woe begone, did Fitzalan appear, so much the son of sorrow and despair, that had he half murdered Adela, she could not at that moment

moment have felt for him any other fentiments than those of pity and compassion. Mrs. Marlowe, in a laughing way, told her of the trouble she had had with him, "for which, I affure you," faid she, "he rewards me badly, for the moment he was enlarged from the nursery, he either forgot or neglected all the rules I had laid down for him; pray do join your commands to mine, and charge him to take more care of himfelf." " I would most willingly," cried Adela, " if I thought they would influence him to do fo." "Influence!" repeated Ofcar emphatically, "oh heavens!" then, starting up, he hurried to the window, as if to hide and to indulge his melancholy; the scene he viewed from it was dreary and desolate, it was now the latter end of autumn, the evening was cold, a favage blaft howled from the hills, and the sky was darkened by a coming ftorm. Mrs. Marlowe roused him from his deep reverie, "I am fure" faid she, "the prospect you view from the window can have no great attractions at present." yet," cried he, "there is fomething fadly pleafing in it, the leafless trees, the fading flowers of autumn, excite in my bosom a kind of mournful sympathy; they are emblems to me of him whose tenderest hopes have been disappointed,

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difappointed, but, unlike him, they after a hort period shall again flourish with primeval beauty." " Nonsense," exclaimed Mrs. Marlowe, your illness has affected your spirits, but this gloom will vanish long before my orchard reassumes its smiling appearance, and haply attracts another imart red coat to visit an old woman." "Oh! with what an enthusiasm of tenderness" cried Oscar, " shall I ever remember the dear, tho' dangerous, moment, I first entered this Cottage." " Now, no flattery Ofcar," faid Mrs. Marlowe, "I know your fickle fex too well to believe I have made a lasting impression, why the very first fine old woman you meet at your ensuing quarters, will, I dare fay, have fimilar praise bestowed on her." "No," replied he, with a languid smile, "I can assure you folemnly, the impression which has been made on my heart will never be effaced." He stole a look at Adela, her head sunk upon her bosom, and her heart began to beat violently; Mrs. Marlowe wished to change the subject entirely, she felt the truest compassion for the unhappy young couple, and had fervently lesired their union; but since irrevocably sepaated, she wished to check any intimation of a nutual attachment, which could now answer no purpose

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purpose but that of increasing their misery; she rung for tea, and endeavoured by her conversation to enliven the tea table, the effort, however, was not seconded: "You have often," cried she, addressing Adela, as they again drew their chairs round the fire, "desired to hear the exact particulars of my life, unconquerable feelings of regret hitherto prevented my acquiesceing in your desire; but, as nothing better now offers for passing away the hours, I will, if you please, relate them." "You will oblige me by so doing," cried Adela, "my curiosity, you know, has been long excited."

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CHAP. XIII.

But mine the forrow, mine the fault,
And well my life shall pay,
I'll seek the solitude he sought,
And stretch me where he lay.

GOLDSMITH.

TO begin then, as they fay in a novel, without further preface, I was the only child of a country Curate, in the fouthern part of England; who like his Wife was of a good, but reduced, family: contented dispositions, and an agreeable neighbourhood, ready on every occasion to oblige them, rendered them, in their humble situation, completely happy. I was the idol of both their hearts, every one told my mother I should grow up a beauty, and she, poor simple woman, bevol. 1.

lieved the flattering tale; naturally ambitious, and fomewhat romantic, the expected nothing less, then my attaining, by my charms, an elevated fituation; to fit me for it, therefore, according to her idea, she gave me all the shewy, instead of folid, advantages of education; my father, being a meek, or rather an indolent, man, submitted entirely to her direction: thus, without knowing the grammatical part of my own language, I was taught to gabble bad french by herself, and, instead of mending or making my clothes, to flourish upon catgut and embroider fattin; I was taught dancing by a man who kept a cheap school for that purpose in the village, music I could not aspire to, my mother's finances being insufficient to purchase an instrument; fhe was therefore obliged to content herself with my knowing the vocal part of that delightful science, and instructed me in singing a sew old fashioned airs, with a thousand graces, in her opinion at least.

To make me excel by my dress, as well as my accomplishments, all the misses of the village, the remains of her finery was cut and altered into every form which art or ingenuity could suggest; and, heaven forgive me, but, my chief inducement in going to Church on a sunday,

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was to exhibit my flounced filk petticoat, and painted chip hat.

When I attained my fixteenth year, my mother thought me, (and supposed every one else must do the same) the most perfect creature in the world; I was lively and thoughtless, vain and ambitious, to an extravagant degree, yet, truly innocent in my disposition, and often, forgetting the appearance I had been taught to assume, indulged the natural gaiety of my heart, and in a game of hide and go seek, amongst the hay-cocks in a meadow, by moon light, enjoyed perfect felicity.

Once a week, accompanied by my mother, I attended the dancing master's school, to practife country dances; one evening, we had just concluded a fet, and were refting ourselves, when an elegant youth, in a fashionable riding dress, entered the room, his appearance at once excited admiration and furprise, never shall I forget the palpitation of my heart at his approach, every girl experienced the same, every cheek was flushed, and every eye sparkled with hope and expection; he walked round the room, with an easy unembarrassed air, as if to take a survey of the company; he stopped by a very pretty girl, the Millar's daughter-good Heavens! M 2 what

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what were my agonies, my mother too, who fat beside me, turned pale, and would actually, I believe, have fainted, had he taken any farther notice of her; fortunately he did not, but advanced, my eyes caught his, he again paufed, looked surprised and pleased, and after a moment passed in seeming consideration, bowed with the utmost elegance, and requested the honour of my hand for the enfuing dance; my politeness had hitherto only been in theory, I arose, dropped him a prosound courtesy, assured him the honour would be all on my fide, and I was happy to grant his request; he smiled, I thought, a little archly, and coughed to avoid laughing; I blushed, and felt embarrassed, but he led me to the head of the room to call a dance, and my triumph over my companions fo exhilerated my spirits, that I immediately lost all confusion.

I had been engaged to a young farmer, and he was enraged, not only at my breaking my engagement without his permission, but at the superior graces of my partner, who threatened to be a formidable rival to him; "By jingo!" faid Clod, coming up to me in a surly manner, "I think, Miss Fanny, you have not used me quite genteelly, I don't see why this here fine spark

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fpark should take the lead of us all." " Creature ! " cried I, with an ineffable look of contempt, which he could not bear, and retired grumbling. My Partner could no longer refrain from laughing, the simplicity of my manners, notwithstanding the airs I endeavoured to affume, highly delighted him .- " No wonder," cried he, " the poor fwain should be mortified at lofing the hand of his charming Fanny."

The dancing over, we rejoined my mother, who was on thorns to begin a conversation with the stranger, that she might let him know we were not to be ranked with the present company; "I am fure, Sir," faid she, "a gentleman of your elegant appearance must feel rather awkward in the present party, it is so with us, as indeed it must with every person of fashion; but, in an obscure little Village, like this, we must not be too nice in our fociety, except, like a Hermit, we could do without any." The stranger affented to whatever she said, and accepted an invitation to fup with us; my mother instantly fent an intimation of her will to my father, to have, not the fatted calf indeed, but, the fatted duck prepared; and he, and the maid, used such expedition, that by the time we returned, a neat comfortable supper - M 3

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was ready to lay on the table. Mr. Marlowe, the stranger's name, as he informed us, was all animation and affability; it is unnecessary to say, that my mother, father, and myself, were all complaisance, delight, and attention; on departing, he asked and obtained permission, of course, to renew his visit the next day, and my mother immediately set him down as her suture son in law.

As every thing is speedily communicated in fuch a fmall Village as we refided in, we learned, on the preceding evening he had stopped at the Inn, and, hearing music, had inquired from whence it proceeded, and had gone out of curiofity to the dance; we also learned, that his attendants reported him to be heir to a large fortune: this report, vain as I was, was almost enough of itself to engage my heart; judge then, whether it was not an easy conquest to a person, who besides the above mentioned attraction, possessed those of a graceful figure, and cultivated mind; he visited continually at our Cottage, and I, uncultivated as I was, daily strengthened myself in his affections; in conversing with him, I forgot the precepts of vanity and affectation, and obeyed the dictates of nature and fensibility: he foon declared the motives of his visits to me" to have immediately demanded my hand," he faid, " would have gratified the tenderest wish of his foul-but-in his present situation, that was impossible-left, at an early age, destitute and diffrested, by the death of his parents, an old whimfical uncle, married to a woman equally capricious, had adopted him as heir to their large possessions .- He found it difficult " he faid, " to fubmit to their ill humour, and was confident, if he took any step against their inclinations, he should for ever forfeit their favour; therefore, if my parents would allow a reciprocal promife to pass between us, binding each to each the moment he became mafter of expected fortune, or obtained an independence, he would make me a partaker of it." They consented, and he enjoined us to the strictest fecrefy, faying, " one of his attendants was placed about him as a kind of fpy, he had hitherto deceived him with respect to us, declaring my father was an intimate friend, and that his uncle knew he intended vifiting him." But my unfortunate vanity betrayed the secret it was so material for me to keep, I burned indeed to reveal it, one morning a young girl, who had been an intimate acquaintance of mine till I knew Marlowe, came to fee me .- " Why " Fanny, M 4.

Fanny," cried she, "you have given us all up for Mr. Marlowe, take care, my dear, he makes you amends for the lofs of all your other friends." "I shall take your advice," faid I, with a fmile, and a conceited tofs of my head. " Faith, for my part, continued she, " I think you were very foolish not to secure a good settlement for yourfelf with Clod." " With Clod!" repeated I, with the utmost haughtiness, " Lord, Child, you forget who I am ! " " Who you are!" exclaimed she, provoked at my infolence, "oh yes! to be fure, I forget that you are the daughter of a poor country Curate, with more pride in your head than money in your purfe." "Neither do I forget," faid I, "that your ignorance is equal to your impertinence, if I am the daughter of a poor country Curate, I am the affianced wife of a rich man, and as much elevated by expectation, as spirit, above you." Our conversation was repeated throughout the Village, and reached the ears of Marlowe's attendant, who instantly devoloped the real motive which detained him fo long in the Village; he wrote to his uncle an account of the whole affair, the consequence of this was a letter to poor Marlowe, full of the bitterest reproaches, charging him, without delays

to return home; this was like a thunder stroke to us all, but there was no alternative between obeying, or forfeiting his Uncle's favour. "I fear, my dear Fanny," cried he, as he folded me to his bosom, a little before his departure, "it will be long ere we shall meet again, nay, I also fear, I shall be obliged to promise not to write; if both these fears are realized, impute not either absence, or silence, to a want of the tenderest affection for you." He went, and with him all my happiness; my mother, shortly after his departure, was attacked by a nervous fever, which terminated her days; my father, naturally of weak spirits and delicate constitution, was so shocked by the sudden death of his beloved and faithful companion, that he foon funk beneath his grief. The horrors of my mind I cannot describe, I seemed to stand alone in the world, without one friendly hand to prevent my finking into the grave, which contained the dearest objects of my love. I did not know where Marlowe lived, and, even if I had, durst not venture an application, which might be the means of ruining him; the effeem of my neighbours I had forfeited by my conceit, they paid no attention but what common humanity dictated, merely to prevent my perishing; and Ms

I received an invitation from a school sellow of mine, who had married a rich sarmer about forty miles from our Village, to take up my residence with her, till I was sufficiently recovered to fix on some plan for suture subsistence; I gladly accepted the offer, and, after paying a sarewell wish to the grave of my regretted parents, I set off, in the cheapest conveyance I could find, to her habitation, with all my worldly treasure packed up in a portmanteau.

With my friend, I trufted I should enjoy a a calm and bappy afylum, till Marlowe was able to fulfil his promife, and allow me to reward her kindness; but, this idea she foon put to slight -by informing me, as my health returned, I must whink of fome method for supporting myself, I farted, as at the otter annihilation of all my hopes, for, wain and ignorant of the world, I imagined Marlowe would never think of me if vonce differed by fervitude; I told her; I underflood little of any thing except fancy work, fhe was particularly glad, the faid, to hear I knew that, as it would, in all probability, gain me admittance to the fervice of a rich old lady in the neighbourhood, who had long been feeking for a person who could read agreeably and do fancy work that

works, with which the delighted to ornament: her house; she was a little whimsical to be fure, the added, but, well timed flattery might turn those whims to advantage, and, if I regarded my reputation, I should not reject for respectable a protection: there was no alternative; I inquired more particularly about her, but, how great was my emotion, when I learned the was the aunt of Marlowe-my heart throbbed with exquisite delight at the idea of being in the fame house with him, besides, the service of his aunt would not, I flattered myfelf, degrade me as much in his eyes as that of another person's; it was necessary, however, my name should be concealed, and I requested my friend: to comply with my wish in that respect, she rallied me about my pride, which she supposed had fuggefted the request, but promised to comply with it; the had no doubt but her recommendation would be sufficient to procure me immediate admittance, and, accordingly, taking some of my work with me, I proceeded to the habitation of Marlowe. It was an antique Manfion, furrounded with neat clipped hedges, level lawns, and formal plantations; two statues, cast in the fame mold, and refembling nothing either in heaven, earth, or fea, flood grinning horribly M 6

upon the pillars of a massy gate, as if to guard the entrance from impertinent intrusion; on knocking, an old porter appeared, I gave him my message, but he, like the statues, seemed stationary, and would not, I believe, have stirred from his fituation to deliver an embaffy from the King; he called, however, to a domestic, who, happening to be a little deaf, was full half an hour before he heard him, at laft, I was ushered up stairs into an apartment, from the heat of which one might have conjectured it was under the torrid zone, tho' in the middle of July, a heavy hot fire burned in the grate, a thick carpet, representing birds, beafts, and flowers, was spread on the floor, and the windows, closely screwed down, were heavy with wood work, and darkened with dust; the Master and Mistress of the Mansion, like Derby and Joan, fat in arm chairs on each fide of the fire, three dogs, and as many cats, flumbered at their feet; he was leaning on a spider table, poring over a voluminious book, and she was stitching a counterpane, fickness and ill-nature were visible in each countenance. "Sol " faid the, raifing a huge pair of spectacles at my entrance, and examining me from head to foot, "you are come from Mrs. Wilson's, why, bless me child, you are

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are quite too young for any buliness-pray what is your name, and where do you come from ?" I was prepared for these questions, and told her. the truth, only concealing my real name, and the place of my nativity. "Well, let me fee those works of yours," cried she. I produced them, and the spectacles were again drawn down, "why, they are neat enough to be fure," faid she, "but the defign is bad-very bad indeed; there is tafte! there is execution!" directing me to fome pictures, in heavy gilt frames, hung round the room. I told her, with fincerity, "I had never feen any thing like them. " " To be fure, child," exclaimed she, pleased at what she confidered admiration in me, "tis running a great tisk to take you, but if you think you can conform to the regulations of my house, I will, from compassion, and as you are recommended by Mrs. Wilson, venture to engage you; but, remember, lmust have no gad-a-bout, no fly slapper, no chatterer, in my family; you must be decent in your drefs, and carriage, discreet in your words, industrious at your work, and fatisfied with the indulgence of going to Church on a funday. " I faw I was about entering on a painful fervitude, but the idea of its being fweetened by the fympathy of Marlowe, a little reconciled me to it. aldedina

On promising all she desired, every thing was settled for my admission into her family, and she took eare I should perform the promises I made her. I shall not recapitulate the various trials I underwent from her austerity and peevishness, suffice it to say, my patience, as well as taste, underwent a perfect martyrdom, I was continually seated at a frame, working pictures of her own invention, which were every thing that was hideous in nature. I was never allowed to go out, except on a sunday to Church, or on a chance evening when it was too dark to distinguish colours.

Marlowe was absent on my entering the family, nor durst I ask when he was expected; my health and spirits gradually declined from my close confinement, when allowed, as I have before said, of a chance time to go out, instead of enjoying the sresh air, I have sat down to weep over scenes of former happiness. I dined constantly with the old housekeeper, she informed me one day, that Mr. Marlowe, her master's young heir, who had been absent some time on a visit, was expected home on the ensuing day; fortunately the good Dame was too busily employed to notice my agitation, I retired as soon as possible from the table, in a state of indefectibable.

cribable pleasure, never shall I forget my emotions, when I heard the trampling of his horses feet, and faw him enter the house; vainly I endeavoured to refume my work, my hands trembled, and I funk back on my chair, to indulge the delightful idea of an interview with him, which I believed to be inevitable: my fevere task-mistress soon awakened me from my delightful dream, the came to tell me, " I must confine myfelf to my own and the housekeeper's room, which, to a virtuous discreet maiden, such as I appeared to be, the supposed would be no hardship, while her Nephew, who was a young, perhaps rather a wild young man, remained in the house; when he again left it, which would. foon be the case, I should regain my liberty." My heart funk within me at her words, but, when the first shock was over, I confoled myfelf by thinking I should be able to elude her vigilance; I was, however, miftaken, fhe, and the housekeeper, were perfect Argus's: to be in the same house with Marlowe, yet, without his knowing it, drove me almost distracted.

I at last thought of an expedient, which, I hoped, would effect the discovery I wanted, I had just finished a piece of work, which my mistress was delighted with; it was an enormous

mous flower basket, mounted on the back of a cat, which held beneath its paw a trembling moufe; the raptures the old lady expressed at feeing her own defign fo ably executed, encouraged me to alk permission to embroider a picture of my own designing, for which I had the filks lying by me; fhe complied, and I fet about it with alacrity, I copied my face and figure as exactly as I could, and, in mourning drapery, and a penfive attitude, placed the little image by a rustic grave, in the Church yard of my native Village, at the head of which, half embowered in trees, appeared the lowly Cottage of my departed parents: these well known objects, I thought, would revive, if indeed the was absent from it, the idea of poor Fanny in the mind of Marlowe. I prefented the picture to my mistres, who was pleased with the prefent, and promifed to have it framed; the next day, while I fat at dinner, the door fuddenly opened, and Marlowe entered the room; I thought I should have fainted, my companion dropped her knife and fork with great precipitation, and Marlowe told her he was very ill, and wanted a cordial from her, the role, with a diffatisfied air, to comply with his request; he, taking this opportunity of approaching a little nearer, darted a glance of pity mous

pity and tenderness, and softly whispered, " to night, at eleven o'clock, meet me in the front parlour." You may conceive how tardily the hours paffed till the appointed time came, when, fealing to the parlour, I found Marlowe expecting me; he folded me to his heart, and his tears mingled with mine, as I related my melancholy tale. "You are now, my Fanny," he cried, " entirely mine, deprived of the protection of your tender parents, I shall endeavour to fulfil the facred trust they reposed in my honour, by fecuring mine to you, as far as lies in my power; I was not mistaken" continued he, "in the idea I had formed of the treatment I should receive from my flinty hearted relations on leaving you, had I not promifed to drop all correspondence with you, I must have relinquished all hopes of their favour; bitter indeed" cried he, while a tear started in his eye, " is the bread of dependence, ill could my foul fubmit to the indignities I received; but, I confoled myfelf throughout them, by the idea of future happiness with my Fanny; had I known her situation, (which indeed it was impossible I should, as my uncle's fpy attended me wherever I went) no dictate of prudence would have prevented my flying to her aid!" "Thank Heaven then

you were ignorant of it," faid I. "My Aunt" he proceeded, "fhewed me your work, lavishing the highest encomiums on it, I glanced my eye carelessly upon it, but, in a moment, how was that careless eye attracted, by the well known objects presented to it, this, I said to my heart, can only be Fanny's work, I tried to discover from my aunt whether my conjectures were wrong, but without success; when I retired to dress, I asked my servant if there had been any addition to the family during my absence, he said a young woman was hired to do sine works, but she never appeared among the servants."

Marlowe proceeded to fay, "he could not bear I should longer continue in servitude, and that without delay he was resolved to unite his fate to mine." I opposed this resolution a little, but soon, too self interested I sear, acquiesced in it; it was agreed, I should inform his aunt my health would not longer permit my continuing in her family, and that I should retire to a Village six miles off, where Marlowe undertook to bring a young Clergyman, a particular friend of his, to perform the ceremony; our plan, as settled, was carried into execution, and I became the wife of Marlowe. I was now, you

you will suppose, elevated to the pinnacle of happiness, I was so indeed, but my own folly precipitated me from it; the fecrefy I was compelled to observe mortified me exceedingly, as I panted to emerge from the invidious cloud which had fo long concealed my beauty and accomplishments, from a world, that I was confident, if feen, would pay them the homage they merited. The people with whom I lodged had been obliged by Marlowe, and therefore, from interest and gratitude, obeyed the injunction he gave them of keeping my residence at their house a secret; they believed, or affected to believe, I was an orphan committed to his care, whom his uncle would be displeased to know he had taken under his protection: three or four times a week, I received stolen visits from Marlowe, when, one day (after a month had elapfed in this manner) flanding at the parlour window, I faw Mrs. Wilson walking down the Village; I flarted back, but too late to escape her observation, the immediately bolted into the room, with all the eagerness of curiosity; I bore her first interrogatories tolerably well, but, when the upbraided me for leaving the excellent fervice fhe had procured for me, for duplicity in faying I was going to another, and for my indiscretion

indifcretion in respect to Marlowe, I lost all command of my temper, and, remembering the inhumanity with which she had forced me into fervitude, I resolved to mortify her completely, by affuming all the airs I had heretofore fo ridiculoufly aspired to; lolling in my chair, with an air of the most careless indifference, I bid her no longer petrify me with her discourse; this raised all the violence of rage, and she plainly told me, " from my conduct with Marlowe, I was unworthy her notice." "Therefore," cried I, forgetting every dictate of prudence, "his wife will neither defire or receive it in future." "His wife!" fhe repeated, with a look of fcorn and incredulity. I produced the certificate of my marriage, thus, from an impulse of vanity and refentment, putting myself in the power of a woman, a ftranger to every liberal feeling, and whose mind was inflamed with envy toward me; the hint I forced myself at parting to give her, to keep the affair fecret, only determined her more strongly to reveal it; the day after her visit, Marlowe entered my apartment, pale, agitated, and breathless, he funk into a chair; a pang, like conscious guilt, fmote my heart, and I trembled as I approached him; he repulsed me when I attempted to touch his hand-"Cruel, inconinconfiderate woman," he faid, "to what dreadful lengths has your vanity hurried you, it has drawn destruction upon your own head as well as mine!" Shame and remorfe tied my tongue. had I spoken, indeed, I could not have vindicated myself, and I turned aside and wept. Marlowe, mild, tender, and adoring, could not long retain resentment; he started from his chair, and clasped me to his bosom-" Oh Fanny!" he cried, "tho' you have ruined me, you are still dear as ever to me." This tenderness affected me even more than reproaches, and tears, and fighs, declared my penitence; his expectations relative to his uncle were finally deffroyed, on being informed of our marriage, which Mrs. Wilson loft no time in telling him, he burned his will, and immediately made another in favour of a distant relation: on hearing this intelligence, I was almost distracted, I slung myself at my husband's feet, implored his pardon, yet, declared I could never forgive myself; he grew more composed, upon the increase of my agitation, as if purposely to footh my spirits, assuring me, that, tho' his uncle's favour was loft, he had other friends on whom he greatly depended. We fet off for London, and found his dependence was not ill placed; for, foon after his arrival,

he obtained a place of considerable emolument in one of the public offices; my husband delighted in gratifying me, tho' I was often both extravagant and whimfical, and almost ever on the wing for admiration and amusement, I was reckoned a pretty woman, and received, with rapture, the nonfense and adulation addressed to me; I became acquainted with a young widow, who concealed a depraved heart under a specious appearance of innocence and virtue, and by aiding the vices of others procured the means of gratifying her own; yet, so secret were all her transactions, that calumny had not yet attacked her, and her house was the rendezvous of the most fashionable people; my husband, who did not dislike her manner, encouraged our intimacy, and at her parties 1 was noticed by a young nobleman, then at the head of the ton; he declared I was one of the most charming objects he had ever beheld, and, for fuch a declaration, I thought him the most polite I had ever known, as Lord T ____ condescended to wear my chains, I must certainly, I thought, become quite the rage, my transports, however, were a little checked by the grave remonstrances of my husband, who affured me Lord T- was a famous, or rather an infamous, libertine, and that

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I did not avoid his lordship's particular attentions, he must infit on my relinquishing the widow's fociety; this I thought cruel, but I faw him refolute, and promifed to act as he defiredpromise I never adhered to except when he was present. I was now in a fituation to promile an increase of family, and Marlowe wished me to nurse the child; the tenderness of my heart feconding his wish, I resolved on obeying it, but, when the Widow heard my intention she laughed at it, and faid it was absolutely ridiculous, for the fake of a squalling brat, to give up all the pleasures of life, besides, it would be much better taken care of in some of the Villages about London." I denied this, fill, however, fhe dwelt on the facrifices I must make, the amusements I must give up, and at last completely conquered my resolution; I pretended to Marlowe, my health was too delicate to allow me to bear such fatigue, and he immediately sacrificed his own inclination to mine: I have often wondered at the kind of infatuation with which he complied with all my defires; my little girl, almost as soon as born, was sent from me, but, on being able to go out again, I received a confiderable shock, from hearing my noble admirer was gone to the continent, owing to 2 trifling pursuits of pleasure and dissipation were still continued; three years past in this manner, during which I had a son, and my little girl was brought home. I have since often selt astonished at the cold indifference with which I regarded my Marlowe, and our lovely babes, on whom he doated with all the enthusiasm of tenderness, alas! vanity had then absorbed my heart, and deadened every seeling of nature and sensibility, it is the parent of self love and apathy, and degrades those who harbour it below humanity.

Lord T-now returned from the Continent, he fwore my idea had never been absent from his mind, and that I was more charming than ever; while I thought him, if possible, more polite and engaging: again my husband remonstrated, sometimes I seemed to regard these remonstrances, sometimes protested I would not submit to such unnecessary controul; I knew indeed that my intentions were innocent, and believed I might fafely indulge my vanity, without endangering either my reputation or peace; about this time Marlowe received a fummons to attend a dying friend fome miles from London, our little girl was then in a flight fever, which had alarmed her father, and confined me, most unwillingly

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unwillingly I must confess, to the house. Marlowe, on the point of departing, pressed me to his breast-" My heart, my beloved Fanny," said he, "feels unufually heavy, I trust the feeling is no presentiment of approaching ill-oh! my Fanny, on you, and my babes, I rest for happiness-take care of our little cherubs, and above all, (his meek eye encountering mine) take care of yourfelf. that, with my accustomed rapture, I may, on my return, receive you to my arms." There was fomething fo folemn, and fo tender, in this address, that my heart melted, and my tears mingled with those which trickled down his pale cheeks, for two days I attended my child affiduously, when the 'Widow made her appearance; she assured me I should injure myself by fuch close confinement, and that my cheeks were already faded by it, she mentioned a delightful masquerade, which was to be given that night, and for which Lord T--- had prefented her with tickets, for me and herself; but, the declared, except I would accompany her, the would not go. I had often wished to go to a masquerade, I now, however, declined this opportunity of gratifying my inclination, but fo faintly as to prompt a renewal of her follicitations, to which I at last yielded, and, committing my VOL. I. babe

babe to the care of a servant, set off with the Widow to a warehouse to chuse dresses. Lord T--- dined with us, and we were all in the highest spirits imaginable; about twelve we went in his chariot to the Haymarket. and I was absolutely intoxicated with his flattery, and the dazzling objects around me; at five we quitted this scene of gaiety, the Widow took a chair, I would have followed her example, but my Lord absolutely lifted me into his chariot, and there began talking in a strain which provoked my contempt, and excited my apprehensions. I expressed my displeasure in terms which checked his boldness, and convinced him he had some difficulties yet to overcome ere he completed his defigns; he made his apologies with fo much humility that I was foon appealed, and prevailed on to accept them. We arrived at the Widow's house in as much harmony as we left it, the flags were wet, and Lord T- infifted on carrying me into the house; at the door I observed a man muffled up, but as no one noticed him, I thought no more about it: we fat down to supper in high fpirits, and chatted for a confiderable time about our past amusements; his Lordship said, "after a little sleep we should recruit ourselves by 2 pleasant jaunt to Richmond, where he had a charming

charming Villa." We agreed to his proposal, and retired to rest, about noon we arose, and, while I was dressing myself for the projected excursion, a letter was brought into me.—"Good lord! Halcot," exclaimed I, turning to the Widow, if Marlowe is returned, what will become of me." "Oh! read my dear creature," cried she, impatiently, "and then we can think of excuses." I have the letter here, continued Mrs. Marlowe, laying her hand to her breast, and drawing it forth, after a short pause, I laid it to my heart to guard it against future folly.

THE LETTER.

"The presages of my heart were but too true—we parted never to meet again—oh! Fanny, beloved of my soul, how are you lost to yourself and Marlowe. The independence, splendour, riches, which I gave up for your sake, were mean sacrifices, in my estimation, to the selicity I fondly expected to have enjoyed with you thro' life—your beauty charmed my but, it was your simplicity captivated my heart—I took, as I thought, the persect child of innocence and sincerity to my bosom; resolved, from N 2 duty.

duty, as well as from inclination, to shelter you, in that bosom, to the utmost of my power, from every adverse storm; whenever you were indisposed what agonies did I endure, yet, what I then dreaded, could I have possibly forseen, would have been comparitive happiness, to my present misery; for, oh! my Fanny, far presentable would it have been, to behold you in the arms of death then infamy."

"I returned immediately after witnessing the last pangs of my friend-oppressed with the awful scene of death, yet, cheering my spirits by an anticipation of the confolation I should receive from my Fanny's sympathy.—Good God! what was my horror, when I found my little babe, instead of being restored to health, by a Mother's care, nearly expiring, thro' her neglectthe Angel lay gasping on her bed, deserted by the mercenary wretch to whose care she was configned. I inquired, and the fatal truth rushed upon my foul, yet, when the first tumults of passion had subsided, I felt that, without yet stronger proofs, I could not abandon you; alas! too foon did I receive those proofs-I traced you, Fanny, thro' your giddy round, till I faw you borne in the arms of the vile Lord T____ into the house of his vile Paramour.-You will wonder, perhaps,

perhaps, I did not tear you from his grasp—could, such a procedure have restored you to med with all your unsullied innocence, I should not have hesitated, but, that was impossible, and my eyes then gazed upon Fanny for the last time. I returned to my motherless babes, and I am not ashamed to say, I wept over them with all the agonies of a fond and betrayed heart."

" Ere I bid an irrevocable adieu, I would, if possible, endeavour to convince you that conscience cannot always be stifled, that illicit love is conftantly attended by remorfe and disappointment; for, when familiarity, or difeafe, have diminished the charms which excited it, the frail fetters of admiration are broken by him who looks only to an exterior for delight; if indeed your conscience should not be awakened till this hour of defertion comes, when it does arrive, you may perhaps think of Marlowe-Yes, Fanny, when your cheeks are faded by care, when your wit is enfeebled by despondency, you may think of him whose tenderness would have outlived both time and chance, and supported you, without abatement, thro' every stage o life.

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"To stop short in the career of vice is, they say, the noblest effort of virtue; may such an N 3 effort

effort be yours, and may you yet give joy to the angels of heaven, who, we are taught to believe, rejoice over them that truly repent. That want should strew no thorns in the path of penitence, all that I could take from my babes I have affigned to you, Oh! my dear Culprit, remember the precepts of your early youth, of those, who sleeping in the dust, are spared the bitter tear of anguish, such as I now shed, and ere too late, to expiate your errors. In the folitude to which I am hastening, I shall continually pray for you, and when my Children raise their spotless hands to heaven, they shall implore its mercy for erring mortals, yet, think not they shall ever hear your story-oh! never shall the blush of shame, for the frailties of one fo near, tinge their ingenuous countenances. May the fincerity of your repentance restore that peace and brightness to your life, which, at present, I think you must have forfeited, and support you, with fortitude, through its closing period. As a friend, once dear, you will ever exist in the memory of

MARLOWE."

As I concluded the letter, my spirits, which had been gradually receding, entirely for sook me, and

and I fell senseless on the sloor. Mrs. Halcot, and Lord T——, took this opportunity of gratifying their curiosity, by perusing the letter, and when I recovered I sound myself supported between them. "You see, my dear angel," cried Lord T——, your cruel husband has entirely abandoned you, but, grieve not for in my arms you shall find a kinder asylum then he ever afforded you." "True," said Mrs. Halcot, "for my part I think she has reason to rejoice at his desertion."

I shall not attempt to repeat all I said to them, in the height of my distraction, suffice it to say, I reproached them both as the authors of my shame and misery, and, while I spurned Lord T indignantly from my feet, accused Mrs. Halcot of poffesting neither delicacy nor feeling. Alas! accusation or reproach could not lighten the weight on my heart-I felt a dreadful consciousness of having occasioned my own misery, I feemed as if waking from a difordered dream, which had confused my senses; and, the more clearly my perception of what was right returned, the more bitterly I lamented my deviation from it: to be reinstated in the esteem and affection of my husband was all of felicity I could defire to posses, full of the idea of being able to effect

running.

a reconciliation. I started up, but ere I reached the door, funk into an agony of tears, recollecting that ere this he was probably far diftant from me; my base companions tried to assuage my grief, and make me in reality the wretch poor Marlowe supposed me to be: I heard them in filent contempt, unable to move, till a fervant informed me a gentleman below stairs defired to fee me; the idea of a relenting husband instantly occurred, and I sew down, but, how great was my disappointment, only to fee a particular friend of his; our meeting was painful in the extreme, I asked him if he knew any thing of Marlowe, and he folemnly affured me he did not. When my confusion and distress had a little subsided, he informed me, that in the morning he had received a letter from him, with an account of our feparation, and the fatal cause of it; the letter contained a deed of settlement on me, of a small paternal estate, and a bill of fifty pounds, which Marlowe requested his friend to prefent himself to me; he also added my clothes were fent to his house, as our lodgings had been discharged. I did not find it difficult to convince this gentleman of my innocence, and, putting myfelf under his protection was immediately conveyed to lodgings in a retired

retired part of the town; here he confoled me with affurances of using every effort to discover the refidence of my husband, all, alas! proved unfuccessful, and my health gradually declined; as time wore away my hope, yet left still undiminished my defire of feeing him; change of air was at last deemed requisite to preserve my existence and I went to Bristol. I had the good fortune to lodge in the house with an elderly Irish Lady, whose sweet and benevolent manners foon gained my warmest esteem, and tempted me to divulge my melancholy tale, where fo certain of obtaining pity; fhe had also suffered severely from the pressure of forrow, but hers, as it proceeded not from imprudence, but the common viciffitudes of life, was borne without that degree of anguish mine occasioned: as the period approached for her return to her native country, I felt the deepest regret at the prospect of our separation, which she, however, removed, by asking me to reside entirely with her; eight years had elapfed fince the loss of my husband, and no latent hope of his return remained in my heart fufficiently ftrong to tempt me to forego the advantages of fuch fociety; ere I departed, however, I wrote to several of his friends, informing them of the step I intended taking, and, if any tidings of NS. Marlowe

Marlowe occurred, where I was to be found. Five years I passed with my valuable friend in retirement, and had the pleasure of thinking I contributed to the ease of her last moments; this Cottage, with a few acres adjoining it, and four hundred pounds, was all her wealth, and to me she bequeathed it, having no relations whose wants gave them any claim upon her."

"The events I have just related will, I hope, strengthen the moral so many wish to impress upon the minds of youth, namely—that, without a strict adherence to propriety, there can be no permanent pleasure; and that it is the actions of early life must give to old age either happiness and comfort, or forrow and remorfe. Had I attended to the admonitions of wisdom and experience, I should have checked my wanderings from prudence, and preferved my happiness from being facrificed at the shrine of vanity; then, instead of being a solitary being in the world, I might have had my little fire fide enlivened by the partner of my heart, and, perhaps, my children's children sporting around: but, suffering is the proper tax we pay for folly; the frailty of human nature, the prevalence of example, the allurements of the world, are mentioned by many as extenuations for misconduct; tho' virtuc

tue, fay they, is willing, the is often too weak, to refift the wishes they excite-mistaken ideaand bleffed is that virtue, which, by oppofing, ends them.-With every temptation we have the means of escape, and woe be to us if we neglect those means, or hesitate to disentangle ourselves from the snares which vice or folly may have fpread around us. Sorrow and disappointment are incident to mortality and, when not occasioned by any conscious imprudence, should be confidered as temporary trials from heaven to improve and correct us, and therefore cheerfully be borne. A figh stole from Oscar as she spoke, and a tear trickled down the soft cheek of Adela. "I have," continued Mrs. Marlowe, "given' you, like an old woman, a tedious tale, but that tediousness, with every other imperfection, I have acknowledged, and may betray, I rest upon your friendship and candour to excuse." car and the wholey and transfer or well care to the ter-

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CHAP. XIV.

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Denied her fight, he often crept'

Beneath the hawthorn shade;

To mark the spot in which she wept—

In which she wept and pray'd.

THE night was waning fast, and Adela rose to depart as her friend concluded her story; yet, it required an effort of resolution to retire, Mrs. Marlowe, however, was too well convinced of the expediency and propriety of this to press her longer stay, tho' the eyes of Oscar, suddenly turned to her, seemed to entreat she would do so. The night was dark and wet, which prevented Mrs. Marlowe from accompanying Adela to the carriage; not so Oscar, he took the umbrella from the servant who held it for his mistress and bid him hasten on to have the carriage

riage door opened. "Ofcar," cried Mrs. Marlowe, extremely unwilling to allow even this short têté-a-têté, " Mrs. Belgrave will dispense with your gallantry, for you are really too great an invalid to venture out such a night as this." Adela attempted to diffuade him from it, but her voice was fo low and faltering as scarcely to be articulate; Oscar gently seized her hand and pulled it under his arm, he felt it tremble as he did fo, the touch became contagious, an universal tremer affected his frame, and never, perhaps, had he and Adela experienced a moment of greater unhappiness. Adela at last found herfelf obliged to speak, conscious that her filence must appear particular, and said, she feared he would be injured by his attentions to her. More fatally injured then he already was, he might have replied, he could not be; but, he checked the words ready to burst from his lips, and only answered that he would be unfit. for a foldier if he could not endure the inclemency of the wintery blaft. The light from the globes of the carriage, gave him a view of her pale lovely cheeks and he faw fhe was weeping-confused at the idea of betraying her diftrefs, the averted her head, and haftily afcended the steps; yet, for a moment, her trembling hand refted

rested upon Oscar's, as if, in this manner, she would have given the adieu, she had not the power of pronouncing. Lost in agony, he remained, like a statue, on the spot where she had lest him, till roused by the friendly voice of Mrs. Marlowe, who, alarmed at his long absence, came to seek him; soothed by her kind solicitude, he directly returned with her to the house, where his indignation against the persidious Belgrave again broke forth—he execrated him, not only as the destroyer of his peace, but a peace infinitely more precious than his own—that of the charming Adela's.

Mrs. Marlowe effayed every art of consolation, and, by sympathy and mildness, at last subdued the violence of his feelings; she acknowledged the loss he sustained in being deprived of Adela, but, since irrevocable, both virtue and reason required him to struggle against his grief and conceal it; by their sacred dictates, she entreated him to avoid seeing Adela, he selt she was right in the entreaty, and solemnly promised to comply with it; her friendship was balm to his wounded heart, and her society the only pleasure he was capable of enjoying, whenever he could absent himself from quarters he retired to her, and frequently spent three or four

four days at a time in her Cottage. By discontinuing his visits in the gay neighbourhood of Woodlawn, he avoided all opportunities of seeing Adela, yet, often, on a clear frosty night, has he stole, from the fire-side of Mrs. Marlowe, to the beloved and beautiful haunts about the lake, where he and Adela past so many happy hours together; here he indulged in all the luxury of woe, and such are the pleasures of virtuous melancholy, that Oscar would not have resigned them, for any of the common place enjoyments of life.

Often did he wander to the grove from whence he had a view of Adela's chamber, and if a lucky chance gave him a glimpse of her, as she passed through it, a fudden ecstacy would pervade his bosom; he would pray for her felicity, and return to Mrs. Marlowe as if his heart was lightened of an oppressive weight. That tender friend flattered herfelf, from youth, and the natural gaiety of his disposition, his attachment, no longer fed by hope, would gradually decline; but she was mistaken, the bloom of his youth was faded, and his gaiety converted into deep despondency: had he never been undeceived with regard to the General and Adela, pride, no doubt, would quickly have leffened the poignancy of his feelings

feelings; but, when he reflected on the generous intentions of the one, on the fincere affections of the other, and the supreme happiness he might have enjoyed, he lost all fortitude: thus, by perpetually brooding over the bleffings once within his reach, losing all relish for those which were yet attainable, his forrow, instead of being meliorated, was increased by time; the horror and indignation with which he beheld Belgrave, after the first knowledge of his baseness, could scarcely be restrained; tho' painful, he was pleased the effort had proved a successful one, as, exclusive of his facred promise to Mrs. Marlowe, delicacy on Adela's account, induced him to bear his wrongs in filence; he could not, however, be so great an hypocrite, as to profess any longer esteem or respect for the Colonel, and when they met, it was with cold politeness on both fides.

The unfortunate. Adela pined in secret, her interview with Oscar had destroyed the small remainder of her peace; his pale and emaciated figure haunted her imagination, in vain, by dwelling on his unkind letter, did she endeavour to lessen her tenderness—she selt the emotion of pity stronger than that of resentment, and that the friendship of Oscar would have been sweeter

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to her foul, then the love or attention of any other object: by obeying the impulse of passion, the feared the had doomed herfelf to wretchedness. Belgrave was a man, whom, upon mature deliberation, the never could have chosen, the fostness of his manners gradually vanished, when the purpose for which they had been assumed was completed—unfeeling and depraved, the virtues of Adela could excite no esteem in his bosom, and the love (if it can merit that appellation) which he felt for her, quickly subsided after their marriage; but, as the General retained the greatest part of his fortune in his own power, he continued tolerably guarded in his conduct-a flave, however, to the most violent passions, he was often unable to controul them, and, forgetful of all prudential motives, delighted at these times in mortifying Adela, by fly farcasms on her attachment for Ofcar; tho' deeply wounded, the never complained, the had partly forged her chains, and refolved to bear them without repining; tranquil in appearance, the poor General, who was not penetrating, thought his darling perfeelly happy, such, however, was not the opinion of those who visited at Woodlawn; the rose of health no longer spread its beautiful tints on the cheek of Adela, nor were her eyes irradiated by vivacity.

The Colonel never went to Enniskellen except about military bufiness, but he made frequent excursions to the Metropolis, and other parts of the Kingdom, in pursuit of pleasure. Adela felt relieved by his absence, and the General, satisfied at his not attempting to take her along with him, never murmured at it; the period now arrived for the departure of the regiment, Adela had not feen Ofcar fince the interview at Mrs. Marlowe's, she declined going to the reviews which preceded the change of garrison, and fincerely hoped no chance would again throw him in her way. Ofcar fickened at the idea of quitting the country without feeing her, he knew the was not to accompany the Colonel; the Officers were going to pay a farewell visit to Woodlawn, and he could not refult being of the party, they were shewn into the drawing room, where Adela and the General fat; she was startled at the appearance of Oscar, but, tho' a blush tinged her pale face, she soon recovered her composure, and entered into conversation; the General preffed them to stay dinner, but they had many visits to pay, and begged to be excused. "My dear Fitzalan," said the General, who had long dropped his displeafure, "I wish you happiness and success, and hope

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hope I shall soon hear of your being at the head of a company, remember I fay foon, for I am an old veteran, and should be forry to drop into the trench till I had heard of the good fortune of my friends; your father was a brave fellow, and, in the speedy advancement of his fon, should receive a reward for his past fervices." Ofcar pressed the General's hand to his breaft, he cast his tearful eyes on Adela, the fighed and bent her's to the ground.—"Be assured, Sir," he cried, "no gratitude can be more fervent than that your goodness has inspired me with, no wishes can be more sincere than mine for the happiness of the inhabitants of Woodlawn." "Ineffectual wifhes," foftly exclaimed Adela, "happiness from one of its inhabitants, at least, has, I fear, fled for ever."

The General's wishes for the success of Oscar may be considered as mere words of course, since not enforced by more substantial proofs of regard; but, in reality, soon after his daughter's marriage, in his usual blunt manner, he had mentioned to the Colonel, his giving a thousand or two to help the promotion of Oscar. Belgrave, who could not bear that the man whom he had injured should have a chance of obtaining equal rank with himself, opposed this truly generous

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generous design, by saying, Oscar was taken under the patronage of Lord Cherbury, and that the General's bounty might, therefore, at some suture period, be better applied in serving a person without his interest." To this the General assented, declaring, "that he never yet met with a brave soldier, or his offspring, in distress, without seeling, and answering, the claim they had upon his heart."

Oscar obtained a ready promise from Mrs. Marlowe of corresponding with him, he blushed, and faltered, as he besought her sometimes to acquaint him with the health of their friends at Woodlawn.

Change of scene produced no alteration in him, still pining with regret, and languid from ill health, his father and sister found him, the comforts of sympathy could not be his, as the anguish which preyed on his heart, he considered of too sacred a nature to divulge; he hoarded up his grief, like a miser hoarding up his treasure, fearful that the eye of suspicion should glance at it: as he pressed his lovely sister to his heart, had he imagined she was the object of Colonel Belgrave's licentious passion, the bounds he had hitherto prescribed to his resentment, would in a moment have been

been overturned, and he would, had it been necessary, have pursued the monster round the world, to avenge the injury he had meditated, as well as the one he had committed.

We shall now bid adieu to Oscar for the present, and, drawing on our boots of seven leagues, step after Fitzalan and Amanda.

CHAP. XV.

Confess'd from yonder flow extinguished clouds,
All ether softening sober Evening takes,
Her wonted station in the middle air;
A thousand shadows at her beek.

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Were going, was a large gothic pile, erected in the rude and distant period, when strength, more than elegance, was deemed necessary in a building; the depredations of war, as well as time, were discernible on its exterior, some of its losty battlements were broken, and others

others mouldering to decay, while about its

- " The rank grass waved its head,
- "And the moss whistled to the wind !"

It flood upon a rocky eminence, overhanging the fea, and commanding a delightful prospect of the opposite coast of Scotland; about it were yet to be traced irregular fortifications, a moat, and remains of a draw-bridge, with a well, long fince dry, which had been dug in the rock, to supply the inhabitants, in times of siege, with water; on one fide rose a stupendous hill, covered to the very fummit with trees, and scattered over with relics of druidical antiquity; before it stretched an extensive and gently swelling lawn, sheltered on each side with groves of intermingled shade, and refreshed by a clear and meandering rivulet, that took its rife from the adjoining hill, and murmured o'er a bed of pebbles.

After a pleasant journey, on the evening of the fourth day, our travellers arrived at their destined habitation, an old man and woman, who had the care of it, were apprised of their coming, and on the first approach of the carriage

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carriage opened the maffy door, and waited to receive them; they reached it when the fober grey of twilight had clad every object, Amanda viewed the dark and stupendous edifice, whose gloom was now heightened by the shadows of evening, with venerable awe: the folitude, the filence, which reigned around, the melancholy murmur of the waves, as they dashed against the feet of the rocks, all heightened the f.dness of her mind, yet, it was not quite an unpleasing sadness, for with it was now mingled a degree of that enthusiasm, which plaintive and romantic spirits are so peculiarly subject to feel in viewing the venerable grandeur of an ancient fabric renowned in history. As she entered a Tpacious hall, curioufly wainfcotted with oak, ornamented with coats of arms, spears, lances, and old armour; the could not avoid casting a retrospective eye to former times, when, perhaps, in this very hall, bards fung the exploits of those heroes whose useless arms now hung upon the walls; the wished, in the romance of the moment, fome grey-bard near her, to tell the deeds of other times, of Kings renowned in our land, of chiefs we behold no more: in the niches in the hall, were figures of chieftains, large as the life, and rudely carved in oak, their frowning countenance

countenances struck a sudden panic upon the heart of Ellen.—" Cot pless their souls," she said, "what the tests did they do there, except to frighten the people from going into the house."

They were shewn into a large parlour, furnished in an old fashioned manner, and found a comfortable supper prepared for them; oppressed. with fatigue, foon after they had partaken of it, they retired to reft. The next morning, immediately after breakfast, Amanda, attended by the old woman and Ellen, ranged over the Castle; its interior was quite as gothic as its exterior, the stairs were winding, the galleries intricate, the apartments numerous, and mostly hung with old tapestry, representing Irish battles, in which the Chiefs of Castle Carberry were particularly diffinguished; their portraits, with those of their ladies, occupied a long gallery, whose arched windows cast a dim religious light upon them; this was terminated by a finall apartment. in the center of one of the towers that flanked the building, the room was an octagon, and thus, commanded a fea and land prospect, uniting at once the sublime and beautiful in it; the furniture was not only modern but elegant, and excited the particular attention and inquiries of Amanda; the old woman informed her, this had

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been the dreffing room of the late Countess of Cherbury, both before and after her marriage, one of the sweetest, kindest ladies," continued the, "I ever knew, the Castle has been quite deferted fince the died, a lack a day! I thought my poor heart would have broke when I heard of her death, ah! I remember the night I heard the Banshee crying so pitifully." "And pray what is that?" interrupted Amanda, "Why. a little woman no higher than a yard, who wears a blue petticoat, a red cloak, and a kerchief round her head; and when the head of any family, especially a great family, is to die, she is always heard, by fome of the old followers, bemoaning herself." " Lort save us!" cried Ellen, "I hope his Lortship, the Earl, won't take it into his head to die while we are here, for I'd as lief fee one of the fairys of Penmaenmowr, as fuch a little old witch." " Well, proceed, " faid Amanda. " So, as I was a faying, I heard her crying difmally, one night in a corner of the house; so says I to my husband, Johnaten, fays I, I am fure we shall hear fomething about my good Lord or Lady, and fure enough, we did the next day, and ever fince we have seen none of the family." "Did you ever fee the young Lord?" asked Amanda, with

with involuntary precipitation. " See him, ay that I did, when he was about eight years old, there is his picture, (pointing to one which hung over the chimney) my Lady had it done by a fine English painter, and brought it over with her, it is the moral of what he then was." The eager eyes of Amanda were instantly turned to it, and she traced, or at least imagined she did fo, a resemblance still between it and him; the painter seemed as if he had had the description of pity in his mind, when he drew the picture, for lord Mortimer was pourtrayed as she is represented in the beautiful allegory, sheltering a trembling dove in his bosom, from a ferocious hawk. Oh! Mortimer, thought Amanda, thy feeling nature is here ably delineated, the distressed, or the helpless, to the utmost of your power, you would fave from the gripe of cruelty and oppression. Her father had desired her to chuse pleasant apartments, for her own immediate use, and she accordingly fixed on this and the room adjoining it, which had been lady Cherbury's chamber; her things were brought hither, and her books, works, and implements for drawing, deposited in rich inlaid cabinets; pleased with the arrangements she had made, the brought her father as foon as he was at 02 leifure

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leifure to view them, he was happy to find her spirits somewhat cheerful and composed, and declared, in future he would call this Amanda's Tower: accompanied by him, she ascended to the battlements of the Castle, and was delighted with the extensive and variegated prospect she beheld from them; a spacious edifice, at some distance, embowered in a grove of venerable oaks, attracted her admiration, her father told her that was Ulfter lodge, a feat belonging to the Marquis of Rolline, who was an Irish as well as a fcotch peer, and had very extensive poffessions in Ireland; Fitzalan added, he had been inquiring of the old man about the neighbourhood, and learned from him, that at the expiration of every three or four years, the Marquis usually came over to Ulster lodge, but had never yet been accompanied by the Marchioness, or lady Euphrasia Sutherland, who was his only child.

The domestic economy of Castle Carberry was soon settled, a young man and woman were hired, as Johnaton and his wife Kate were considered little more than supernumaries; Ellen was appointed to attend Amanda, and do whatever plain work was required. Fitzalan selt a pleasing serenity disfused over his mind, from

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the idea of being in some degree independent, and in the way of making some provision for his children. The first shock of a separation from lord Mortimer being over, the cheerfulness of Amanda gradually returned, the visions of hope again revived in her mind, and she indulged a fecret pleasure at living in the house he had once occupied; she considered her father as particularly connected with his family, and doubted not, from this circumstance, she should sometimes hear of him; the judged of his constancy by her own, and believed he would not readily forget her; she acknowledged her father's motives for feparating them were equally just and delicate, but firmly believed if lord Mortimer (as she flattered herfelf he would) confessed a partiality in her favour to his father, that influenced by tenderness for his son, friendship for her father, and the knowledge of her descent, he would immediately give up every idea of another connexion, and fanction theirs with his approbation; no obstacle appeared to such an union but want of fortune, and that want she could never suppose would be confidered as one, by the liberal minded Lord Cherbury, who had himself an income fusicient to gratify even luxurious wishes. Her time was agreeably diversified by the

the fources of amusement she drew from herfelf, her father, whose supreme felicity consisted
in contributing to her pleasure, purchased a
delightful harp for her in Dublin; which arrived a
few days after them at Castle Carberry, and with
its dulcet lays, she often charmed not only his
spirit but her own, from every mortal care; she
loved to rise early and catch the first beams of
the sun, as she wandered o'er the dewy lawn,
where the lowing cattle cropped the slowery
herbage, and the milk maid sung her plaintive
ditty.

With her father, she took long walks about the adjacent country, he had visited every scene before, and now pointed out whatever was worthy her attention; the spots where the heroes of former ages had fallen, where the mighty stones of their same were raised, that the children of the north might hereaster know the places where their sathers sought; that the hunter, as he leaned upon a mostly tomb, might say—here sought the heroes of other years, and their same shall last for ever.

Amanda too often rambled by herfelf, particularly, among the rocks, where were feveral natural grottos, strewed with shells, and sea weeds; here, of a mild day, she loved to read and and liften to the low murmurs of the tide, the opposite scottish hills, among which her mother first drew breath, often attracted and fixed her attention, frequently drawing tears from her eyes, by awaking in her mind the recollection of that mother's sufferings.

On a morning, when she sat at work in her apartment, Ellen, who was considered more as a friend than a servant, sometimes sat with her; the conversation not unfrequently turned on nurse Edwin's Cottage, from which Ellen, with an arch simplicity, would advert to Tudor hall, thence naturally to lord Mortimer, and conclude with poor Chip, exclaiming, what a pity true love should ever be crossed.

CHAP. XVI.

Some took him for a tool,

That knaves do work with, call'd a fool;

Fools are known by looking wife,

As men find woodcocks by their eyes,

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HE folitude of Castle Carberry was interrupted in less than a fortnight, by visits and invitations from the neighbouring families; the first they accepted was to dinner at Mr. Kilcorban's, he was a man of large fortune, which, in the opinion of many, compensated for the want of polished manners, and a cultivated mind; but, to others of a more liberal way of thinking, could not possibly excuse those deficiencies, which were more apparent from his pretending to every

every excellence, and more intolerable from his deeming himself authorised, by his wealth and confequence, to fay and do almost whatever he pleased. His lady, was like himself, a compound of ignorance, pride, and vanity; their offspring was numerous, and the three who were sufficiently old to make their appearance, were confidered, by their parents and themselves, as the very models of elegance and perfection; the young heir had been fent to the University, but, permitted to be his own mafter, he had profited little by his residence there, enough, however, perhaps he thought, for a man of fortune, who wanted not professional knowledge; his face was coarse, his person inelegant, and his taste in adorning himself preposterously ridiculous, fashion, Hoyle, and the looking glass, were his chief studies, and, by his family and felf, he was confidered quite the thing.

The young ladies were supposed to be very accomplished, because they had instructors in almost every branch of education, but, in reality, they understood little more than the names of what they were attempted to be taught; nature had not been lavish of her gists, of this, however, they were unconscious, and patched, powdered, and painted, in the very extremity of the mode;

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their mornings were generally spent in rolling about in a coach and fix, with their mamma, collecting news, and paying visits; their evenings were constantly devoted to company, without which they declared they could not exist, they sometimes affected langour and sentiment, talked of friendship, and professed for numbers the most sincere; yet, to the very girls they pretended to regard, delighted in exhibiting their finery, if certain they could not purchase the same, and would seel mortissed by seeing it.

Mr. Kilcorban had indulged his family in a trip to Bath one autumn, and, in so doing, had afforded a never failing subject for conversation, upon every occasion, this delightful excursion was mentioned, the novelties they saw, the admiration they excited, the elegant intimacies they formed, the amazing sum they expended, were all described and exaggerated.

Lady Greystock, an ancient widow, was at present on a visit to them, she had known Fitzalan in his youth, and now, with pleasure, renewed her intimacy with him, and the account she gave of his family and connexions, preposessed the neighbourhood in his favour; she was a shrewd, sensible woman, the dignity of her person commanded respect, but, the sarcastic expression

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expression of her countenance prevented her conciliating esteem.

An old chariot, belonging to the Earl of Cherbury which had been for years unemployed in the coach house, was brought forth for the purpose of conveying Fitzalan and his daughter on their visits, after a good deal of subbing and washing, it was found tolerably decent, and they proceeded in it to Mr. Kilcorban's, which was about two miles from Castle Carberry; a numerous party was already affembled, while. Amanda was paying her compliments to Mrs. Kilcorban and Lady Greystock, a general whifper relative to her took place among the younger part of the company, who had formed themselves into a group quite distant from the rest. One gentleman fwore, " she was a devilish fine girl!" he was feconded in the remark by another, who extolled her complexion. "You are a simpleton," cried a young lady, who was reckoned a great wit, "I'd engage, for half a crown, to get as fine a colour in Dublin." Her companions laughed, and declared, the only spoke truth in faying fo. Mr. Bryan Kilcorban, who leaned on her chair, faid, "a bill should be brought into the house to tax such complexions, for kill me, "continued he, "the ladies are fo. 06 irrefistible

irresistible from nature, it is quite unconsciable to call in art as an auxiliary." He then stalked over to Amanda, who fat by Lady Greystock, lolling over her chair, he declared, "he thought the tedious hours would never elapse, till again bleffed with her presence; of her," he faid, "it was fufficient to have but one glimple, to make him pant for a fecond." A fummons to dinner relieved her from this nonfense, luxury and oftentation were conspicuous in the fare, and decorations of the table, and Amanda never felt any hours so tedious as those she past at it; when the ladies returned to the drawing room, the Miss Kilcorban's, and their companions, began to examine and admire her dress.-" What a pretty pattern this gown is worked in," faid one. "What a fweet becoming cap this is," cried a fecond. "Well, certainly the English milliners have a great deal of tafte, my dear," faid Miss Kilcorban, whispering Amanda, "I have a monsterous favour to ask of you," drawing her at the same instant to the window. "I am fure," faid Amanda, "any in my power to, grant I thall with pleasure." "Oh! really then, it is in your power, 'tis only to refuse the pattern of your cap to any girls who may ask you for it, and

and to give it to me and my fifter, you can't conceive how we dote on being the first in the fashion, one is so stared at, and so envied, I detest any thing when it becomes common, you can't think how we are teafed every fummer, when we return from Dublin, for fashions, but we always make it a point to refuse; I must tell you a delightful trick I played a friend of mine, the received a large present of the most beautiful muslins from India, which she laid by till I returned from town, supposing I would let her fee my things, as I always told her I was extremely fond of her; well, I lent her a gown, which was quite old fathioned, but, affused her it was the very newest mode, she accordingly had her beautiful muslins cut in imitation of it, and fo spoiled them from making any other habit; well, we met at an affize ball, where all the elegant people of the county were affembled, and, I declare, I never faw fo ridiculous a figure as fhe made; when fhe found herfelf unlike every one in the room, I really thought the would have fainted, and that my fifter and I should have expired with laughing; poor thing, the tears absolutely trickled down her cheeks, don't you think it was a charming trick? " Very much fo,"

faid Amanda, "I think it gave a striking specimen of your humour." "Well, my dear," exclaimed Miss Kilcorban, without minding the marked emphasis of Amanda's last words," if you allow us, my fifter and I will call on you tomorrow to look over your things." "It would be giving yourselves a great deal of unnecessary trouble," replied Amanda coolly, who did not by any means relish this forward proposal. my things can boast of little but simplicity, and I am always my own milliner." well, I protest you have a great deal of taste, my maid, who is very handy, would, I think, be able to make up things in pretty much the fame stile, if you were obliging enough to give her patterns; if you do, perhaps, you will add to the favour, and allow us to fay they are the newest Bath fashions-was you ever " Oh! then, I affure. at Bath?" " No." you, you have a monstrous pleasure to come; 'tis the sweetest place on earth, quite a paradise, I declare I thought I should have died with grief at leaving it, papa has been inexorable ever fince to our entreaties for a fecond trip, he fays the first cost too much money-indeed it was an enormous fum, only think how much." ".I am the worst person in the world " said Amanda

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Amanda, "for gueffing." fick of her impertinent volubility, and moving from the window; the evening was fine, and the grounds about the house beautiful, she therefore proposed a walk, at this proposal, the young ladies, who had hitherto been in deep confab, looked at each other, and remained filent for fome minutes: Miss Kilcorban, then, who had no notion of gratifying the inclination of her guest, by the facrifice of her own, faid, " it blew a little, and that her hair would be ruined, and the Marchelle powder blown from it, by fuch a walk." Another young lady, looking down at her white fattin flippers, vowed she would not venture into the grafs for worlds." A third declared. when once dreft, she could not bear to be tumbled." Amanda had too much politeness. to repeat her wish, and it was therefore unanimously agreed among the fair Coterie, that they should continue in the drawing room, to be in flatu que, for the re-apperance of the beaux.

Lady Greystock now beckoned to our heroine, to take a feat by her, she gladly obeyed. "Well, my dear," fail her ladyship, "I hope you have had enough of these country misses, those would be misses of the ton." Amanda smiled assentingly. "Heaven desend me, or any one I like,"

continued

continued her ladyship, " from their clack, the confusion of babel was, I really believe, inferior to that their tongues create, yet, some people have the abfurdity to reckon these girls accomplished, poor Mrs. Kilcorban, torments one with the perfections of her daughters; against they are disposed of, (which she imagines will be very foon) the has a new brood of graces training up to bring out-mercy on me! what a fet of hoydens, I'd lay my life, at this very inftant, they are gallopping about the nursery, like a parcel of wild colts, tearing or tormenting an unfortunate French governess, who was formerly fille de chambre to a woman of quality, and does not even understand the grammatical part of her own language. " " Mrs. Kilcorban's opinion of her children" faid Amanda, "is natural, confidering the partiality of a parent." . " Yes, but not more bearable on that account," replied her ladyship, "and I should endeavour to open her eyes to her folly, if I thought her acquaintance would forgive my depriving them of fuch a fund of amufement."

Mr. Bryan Kilcorban, with some gentlemen, now entered the room and advanced to Amanda. "So," said he, "you have got by the Dowager, hang me, but, I would let my beard grow, if

if all women resembled her in their dispositions. " "By way of appearing fagacious, I suppose," faid her ladyship, who was extremely quick, and had caught the last words, "alas! poor youth, no embellishments on the exterior, would ever be able to make us believe the tenement within well furnished," her ladyship was now summoned to a whist table, and Miss Kilcorban immediately took her vacant feat. "My dear creature," faid fhe, "are you bored to death, lady Greystock is a queer piece I can assure you, I suppose she was asking some favour from you, fuch as to work her an apron, or handkerchief, the is noted every where for requesting such little jobs, as she calls them; indeed, we should never put up with the trouble she gives us, but that the is vastly rich, and papa's relation, and has no one fo nearly connected with her as we are." " All very good reasons for your complaifance," replied Amanda, "but should you not be more careful in concealing them." "Oh! lord, no, every one knows them as well as we do ourselves, she was here last summer, and took a fancy to the pattern of an apron of mine, and made me the reasonable request of working one like it for her, all this she pretended was to prevent my being idle; well, I faid I would, and wrote

wrote up to the Moravian house, in Dublin, where I had got mine, for one exactly like it; in due time, I received and presented it to the Dowager, certain, that, in return, I should receive a few of her diamond pins, which she had often heard me admire, they are the prettiest I ever faw, and quite unfit for her; but she had the cruelty to disappoint me." "Upon my faith," cried Mrs. Kilcorban, who had taken a chair at the other fide of Amanda, and liftened with evident pleasure to her daughter's volubile speech, "Lady Greystock is an odd being, I never met with any one like her in all my travels through England, Ireland, and Wales, but she is a great orator, and possesses the gift of the gab in a wonderful degree."

Aye indeed, thought Amanda, and you and your fair daughters refemble her in that respect. After tea she was prevailed on to sit down to commerce, but, she soon grew as tired of the party as of the game, and lost on purpose to be released; she had hoped for a little more chat with lady Greystock, but, her ladyship was passionately fond of cards, and at all times would have preferred the pleasures of a card table, to the eloquence of a Cicero. Kilcorban, on finding her disengaged, tormented her with absurd compliments;

ments; a challenge to a brag table at length relieved her from his nonsense, and she loitered about the eard tables till they broke up for supper.

Amanda always expressed to her father, her sentiments of any company she had been in, and those she now delivered on quitting the party, persectly coincided with his; he laughed at the account which the Kilcorbans had given her of lady Greystock, to whom, he knew, they paid the most extravagant slattery, in hopes of obtaining some of her large fortune.

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HE following evening they were engaged to spend at a farmer's, the invitation was given with fuch humility, yet, pressed with fuch warmth, that they could not avoid accepting it, and accordingly foon after dinner walked to the house, which was about a mile from Castle Carberry. It was a low thatched building, every appendage to it bespoke neatness and comfort, it was fituated in a beautiful meadow, enclosed from the road by a hawthorn hedge, and on the opposite side lay an extensive common, on which stood the stupenduous and venerable ruins of of an Abbey, called St. Catherine's; they appeared a melancholy monument of the power of time o'er strength and grandeur, and, while they attracted the observation of the curious, excited a sigh in the bosom of sensibility.

The farmer's family confifted of three daughters, and two fons, who were now dreffed in their best array; they had assembled a number of their neighbours, among whom were a little fat priest, called father O'Gallaghan, confidered the life of every party, and a blind piper; the room was small and crowded with furniture, as well as company, it was only divided from the kitchen by a short passage, and the fleam of hot cakes, and the smoke of a turf fire, which iffued thence, foon rendered it diffrestingly warm. Amanda got as near the window as possible, but still could not procure sufficient air, and as every thing for tea was not quite ready, asked one of the Miss O'Flannaghan's "if the would accompany her to St. Catherine's?" The priest, the answered in the affirmative. who had been fmirking at her ever fince her entrance, now shook his fat fides, and faid, "he wished he could get her initiated there, for it would do my foul good," cried he, " to confess such a pretty little creature as you are, tho faith, I believe I should find you like paddy McDenough, who used to come to consession every Easter, tho' the devil a thing the poor man had to consess about at all, at all; so, says I to him, Paddy, my jewel, says I, I believe I must make a saint of you, and say you on the altar." "Oh! honey, father," cried he, "not yet a while, till I get a new suit of clothes on, which I shall by next michaelmas." Amanda lest them all laughing at this story, and her father engaged in conversation with some farmers, who were desiring his interest with lord Cherbury, for new leases on moderate terms.

Amanda had about a quarter of a mile to walk across the common, the ground was marshy and uneven, and numerous stumps of trees, denoted its having once been a noble forest, of which no memorial but these stumps, and a sew tall trees, immediately near the Abbey; remained, that stretched their venerable arms around it, as if to shade that ruin whose progress they had witnessed, and which Amanda sound well worthy of inspection; she was equally astonished at its elegance and extent; with sacred awe she traversed spacious cloisters, the former walks of holy meditation; she pursued her way through winding passages, where vestiges of cells were

yet discernible, e'er whose mouldering arches the grass waved in rank luxuriance, and the creeping ivy spread its gloomy foliage, and viewed with reverence the graves of those who had once inhabited them, they furrounded that of the founders. which was diftinguished by a cross, and Miss O'Flannaghan related the traditions that were current concerning him.—He was a holy monk who had the care of a pious lady's conscience, she, on her death bed, had a remarkable dream, or vision, in which she thought an angel appeared, and charged her to bequeath her wealth to her Confessor, who would, no doubt, make a much better use of it than those she designed it for; she obeyed the facred injunction, and the good man immediately laid the foundation of this Abbey, which he called after his benefactoress, and to which he, and the community he belonged to, removed. The Chapel was roofless, but still retained many relics of superstitious piety, which had escaped in a tolerable degree, both time and weather; faints and martyrs were curiously cut over the places where the altars and cifterns for holy water had once flood, to which Amanda passed through a long fuccession of elegant arches, among which were a number of tomb stones, with curious devices, and

and unintelligible inscriptions; half hid by grafs and weeds, on a flag, which she perceived must have been lately placed there, she saw some faded flowers strewn, and looking at her companion faw a tear dropping from her on them, she gently asked the cause of it, and heard a favorite brother was interred there, the girl moved from the spot, but Amanda, detained by an irrepressible emotion, staid a minute longer to contemplate the awful fcene-all was filent, fad, and folitary, the grafs grown aifles. looked long untrodden by human foot, the green and mouldering walls appeared ready to crumble into atoms, and the wind, which howled through their crevices, founded to the ear of fancy, as fighs of forrow for the defolation of the place; full of moralizing melancholy, the young, the lovely Amanda, hung over the grave of her companion's youthful brother, and taking up the withered flower, wet with the tear of fifterly affection, dropped another on it, and cried, 6 oh! how fit an emblem is this of life, how illustrative of these words-

[&]quot;Man comes forth as a flower of the field, and is

Miss O'Flannaghan, now led her thro' some more windings, when, suddenly emerging from them, she found herself, to her great surprise, in halarge garden, entirely encompassed by the ruins, and in the centre of it stood a long low building, which her companion informed her was a Convent, a folding door at the side opened into the Chapel, which they entered, and sound a Nun praying.

Amanda, drew back, fearful of diffurbing her; but Miss O'Flannaghan accosted her without ceremony, and the Nun returned the falutation, with the most cordial good humour; the was fifty, as Amanda afterwards heard, for the never could, from her appearance, have conceived her to be fo much; her skin was fair, and perfectly free from wrinkle, the bloom and down upon her cheeks as bright and as foft as that upon a peach, tho' her accent at once proclaimed her country, it was not unharmonious, and the cheerful obligingness of her manner amply compensated the want of elegance; she wore the religious habit of the house, which was a loofe flannel drefs, bound round her waift by a girdle, from which hung her beads and a cross, a veil of the same stuff descended to the ground, and a mob cap and forehead cloth quite concealed VOL. I.

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concealed her hair, * Miss O' Flannaghan prefented Amanda to her, as a stranger who wished to fee every thing curious in the Chapel. "Ah! my honey," cried she, "I am forry she is come at a time when she'll see us all in the dismals, for you know we'are in mourning for our Prioress, (the altar was hung with black) but my dear, (turning to Amanda) do you mean to come here next funday, for if you do you will find us all bright again." Upon Amanda's answering in the negative, the continued, "Faith and I am forry for that, for I have taken a great fancy to you, and when I like a person, I always wish them as great a chance of happiness as I have myself." Amanda, fmiling, faid, " she believed none could defire a greater, and the Nun obligingly proceeded to shew her all the relics and finery of the Chapel, among the former was a head belonging to one of the eleven thousand virgin martyrs, and the latter a chest full of rich filks, which pious ladies had given for the purpose of dreffing the altar; pulling a drawer from under it, the displayed a quantity of artificial flowers, which she said were made by the sisters and their scholars. Amanda wished to make a recompence for the trouble the had given, and finding they were to be fold purchased a number,

The Abbey and the Nun, which the Author has attempted to describe, were such as she really saw; but in a different part of Ireland from that which she has mentioned.

and having given some to Miss O'Flannaghan, who she observed viewing them with a wishful eye, she left the rest with the Nun, promising to call for them the enfuing day. "Ay, do," faid the, "and you may be fure of a fincere welcome; you will fee a fet of happy poor creatures, and none happier than myfelf; I entered the convent at ten, I took the vows at fifteen, and from that time to the prefent, which is a long stretch, I have passed a contented life, thanks be to our bleffed Lady," raifing her fparkling eyes to heaven. They afcended a few steps to the place where the community fat, it was divided from the body of the Chapel by a flight railing; here stood the organ, the Nun fighed as she looked at it, "poor fifter Agatha," cried she, "we shall never get fuch another organist, she was always fit indeed for the heavenly choir, "oh! my dear," turning to Amanda, "had you known her you would have loved her, the was our late Prioreis, and elected to that office at twenty nine, which is reckoned an early age for it, on account of the cleverness it requires, she held it but two years when the died, and we were never to comfortable as during her time, the managed to well; the mourning in the Chapel, as I have already told will be over for her next funday, but that P 2 which

which is in our hearts will not be fo speedily removed." Miss O'Flannaghan now reminded Amanda it was time to return, to which with fecret reluctance, she consented, the Nun pressed her to flay tea, but on hearing of her, engagement only reminded her of the promised visit. In their walk back her companion informed Amanda, that the fociety confifted of twelve nuns, their little fortunes, tho' funk in one common fund, were insufficient to supply their necessities, which compelled them to keep a day school, in which the neighbouring children were instructed in reading, writing, plain work, embroidery, and artificial flowers; the also added, that the Nuns were allowed to go out, but few availed themselves of that liberty, and that, except in fasting, they were strangers to the austerities practifed in foreign Convents.

For such a society Amanda thought nothing could be better adapted then their present situation, sheltered by the ruins, like the living entombed among the dead, their wishes, like their views, were bounded by the mouldering walls, as no object appeared beyond them which could tempt their wandering from their usual limits; the dreary common, which met the view, could not be more bleak and inhospitable then

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the world in general would have proved to these children of poverty and nature.

Father O'Gallaghan met the ladies at the door, and, familiarly taking Amanda's hand, faid, "why, you have staid long enough to be made a Nun of, here (faid he) the cakes are buttered the tea made, and we all waiting for you, ah! you little rogue," fmirking in her face, by the head of St. Patrick, those twinklers of yours were not given for the good of your foul; here you are come to play pell-mell among the hearts of the honest Irish lads; ah! the devil a doubt but you will have mischief enough to answer for by and by, and then I suppose you will be coming to me to confess and absolve you, but remember, my little honey, if you do I must be paid before hand." Amanda disengage l her hand, and entered the parlour, where the company, by a display of pocket handkerchiefs on their laps, feemed prepared to make a downright meal of the good things before them; the Miss O'Flannaghans, from the toils of the tea table, at last grew as red as the ribbon with which they were profufely ornamented, the table at length removed, the chairs arranged, and benches placed in the passage for the old folks, the fignal for a dance was given, by the piper's F 3 playing

playing an Irish jig; the farmer's eldest fon, habited in his new sky blue coat, his hair combed fleek on his forehead, and his complexion as bright as a full blown poppy, advanced to our heroine, and begged with much modesty, and many bows, she would do him the favour to stand up with him; she hefitated a little, when Father O'Gallaghan giving her a tap or rather flap on the shoulder made her start suddenly from her feat, he laughed heartily at this, declaring, he liked to fee a girl alive and merry, as he could not join in the dance he confoled himself with being mafter of the ceremonies, and infifted on Amanda's dancing and leading off the Priest in his boots; the felt little inclined to comply, but she was one of those who can facrifice their own inclination to that of others, being directed in the figure by the Priest, she went down the dance, but, the floor being an earthen one, by the time she had concluded it, she begged they would excuse her fitting the remainder of the evening, fhe felt fo extremely fatigued; she and Fitzalan would gladly have declined staying supper, but this they found impossible, without either greatly mortifying, or absolutely offending their hospitable entertainers. Durana an boath whom

The table was covered with a profusion of good country fare, and none feemed to enjoy it more truly than the Priest, in the intervals of eating, his jests sew about in every direction, the scope he gave to his vivacity exhilerated the rest, so that like Falstaffe, he was not only witty himself, but a prometer of wit in others. "Pray father," faid a young man to him, " what do you give in return for all the good cheer you get? "My bleffing to be fure," replied he; " what better could I give? "Ay, fo you may think, but that is not the case with us all, I promise you, 'tis fo pat I must tell you a story about that same thing called a Priest's bleffing.-A poor man went one day to a Priest, who had the name of being very rich and very charitable, but as all we hear is not gospel, so the poor man doubted a little the truth of the latter report, and refolved on trying him.- "Father," fays he, "I have met with great loffes, my cabin was burned, my pigs stolen, and my cow fell into a ditch and broke her neck; fo I am come to ask your reverence, for the love of heaven, to dend me a crown .- "A crown!" repeated the angry and aftonished Priest, "oh! you rogue, where do you think I could get money to lend, except, like yourfelf, I had pilfered and stolen." "Oh! that is neither

neither here nor there, replied the man, "you know I cleared the score on my conscience with you long ago; so tell me, father, if you will lend me half a crown?" "No, nor a shilling." "Well, a farthing then, any thing from such a good man as you." "No, "said the Priess, "not a mite." "Mayn't I have your blessing," then asked the man. "Oh! that you shall and welcome," replied he, smiling." "Why then, father," returned the other, "I would refuse it if you forced it upon me, for d'ye see, had it been worth one farthing you would have resused it to me."

"You have put me in mind of a very curious story," exclaimed another young man, as this one concluded his. "A young Knight went into a Chapel in Spain one morning, where he observed a Monk standing in a supplicating attude, with a box in his hand; he asked him what this was for, and learned, to collect money for praying the souls of sifty christians out of purgatory, whom the Moors had murdered; the Knight threw a piece of money into the box, and the Monk, after repeating a short prayer, exclaimed, "there is one soul redeemed." The Knight threw in a second, and the Priest, after the same ceremony, cried, "there is a another free." Thus they both

both went on, one giving and the other praying, till by the Monks account all the fouls were free: "Are you fure of this?" inquired the Knight, "Ay," replied the Priest, "they are all affembled together at the gate of heaven, which St. Peter gladly opened for them, and they are now joyfully feated in paradife." "From whence they cannot be removed, I suppose," faid the Knight. "Removed!" repeated the aftonished Priest, " no, the world itself might be easier moved." "Then if you please, Holy Father, return me my ducats, they have accomplished the purpose for which they were given, and as I am only a poor cavalier, without a chance of being as happily fituated, at least for some years, as the fouls we have mutually contributed to releafe, I stand in great need of them."

Fitzalan was surprised at the freedom with which they treated the Priest, but he laughed as merrily as the rest at their stories, for he knew that the they sometimes allowed them-selves a little latitude, they neither wished nor

attempted to shake off his power.

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Fitzalan and Amanda withdrew as early as possible from the party, which, if it wanted every other charm, had that of novelty, at least to them. The next morning Amanda repaired

to the Convent, and inquired for lifter Mary, the good natured Nun she had seen the preceding evening; the immediately made her appearance, and was delighted at feeing Amanda, the conducted her to the school room, where the rest of the nuns and their pupils were affembled, and Amanda was delighted with the content and regularity which appeared in the fociety, as well as the obliging eagerness they shewed to gratify her curiofity; they led her through the house, which contained a number of apartments, every Nun having one to herfelf, furnished with a bed, chair, table, and crucifix, and then to the parlour, where their new Prioress sat, she was a woman far advanced in life; had a painter wanted to personify benevolence, he might have chosen her for a model, to fost, to benignant, was her countenance; forrow, as well as time, had marked it deeply, but the mild expression of her eyes announced the most perfect relignation to that forrow; she received Amanda with the truest politeness, and most friendly warmth, and Amanda felt impressed with real reverence for her, whilst she acknowledged in her mind there could not be a happier fituation for her then her present, she thought it a pity the world had been deprived of a woman who would have proved

proved such an ornament to it. Sister Mary disappeared, but returned in a few minutes with cakes and current wine, which she forced Amanda to take; the good fifter was enchanted with her young vifitor, and having no idea of concealing her feelings, the openly expressed her admiration .- " Dear mother, " faid she, addressing the Priores, "is the not a lovely creature, what pretty eyes fhe has got, and what fweet little hands; oh! if our bleffed ladywould but touch her heart and make her become one of us, I should be so happy. Priorefs smiled, she was not so great an enthufiast as fifter Mary, "it would be a pity" faid the, " fo fweet a flower should be hid amid ! the ruins of St. Catherine's.

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Amanda made an addition to her flowers, she was thanked by the Nuns, and entreated to sayour them often with a visit; just as she reached Castle Carberry she saw the Kilcorbans carriage stop at it, from which lady Greystock, and the young ladies alighted, they both spoke at once, and so extremely fast that Amanda scarcely understood what they said; they declared a thousand impertinent visitors had prevented their coming the preceding morning, and looking at the things she had obligingly promised to shew them.

them. Amanda recollected no fuch promife, but would not contradict them, and permitted their taking what patterns they liked; Lady Greystock finiled farcastically at her young kinswomen, and expressing a wish to see the Castle, Amanda led her thro' it; her ladyfhip was particularly p'ea ed with the-dreffing room; here the young ladi s, with rude and eager curiofity, examined every thirg, but her ladyship, who was full as curious as themselves, could not condemn freedoms she took herfelf, observing a petticoat in a tambour frame, the admired the pattern, and hearing it was deligned by Amanda, extolled her fine tafte, and declared fhe should of all things like to have one worked in the fame; this hint was too plain to pass unnoticed, Amanda wished to oblige, particularly any one advanced in life, and told her ladyship she would work one for her. Lady Greystock smiled most graciously at this, and, pressing her hand, declared she was a charming girl. The Miss Kilcorbans winked flyly, and, taking her hand in turn, affured her they had conceived a most ardent friendship for her, and hoped she would often favour them with her company. Amanda anfwered those infincere professions with cool civility, and the vifitors departed.